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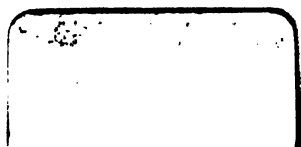
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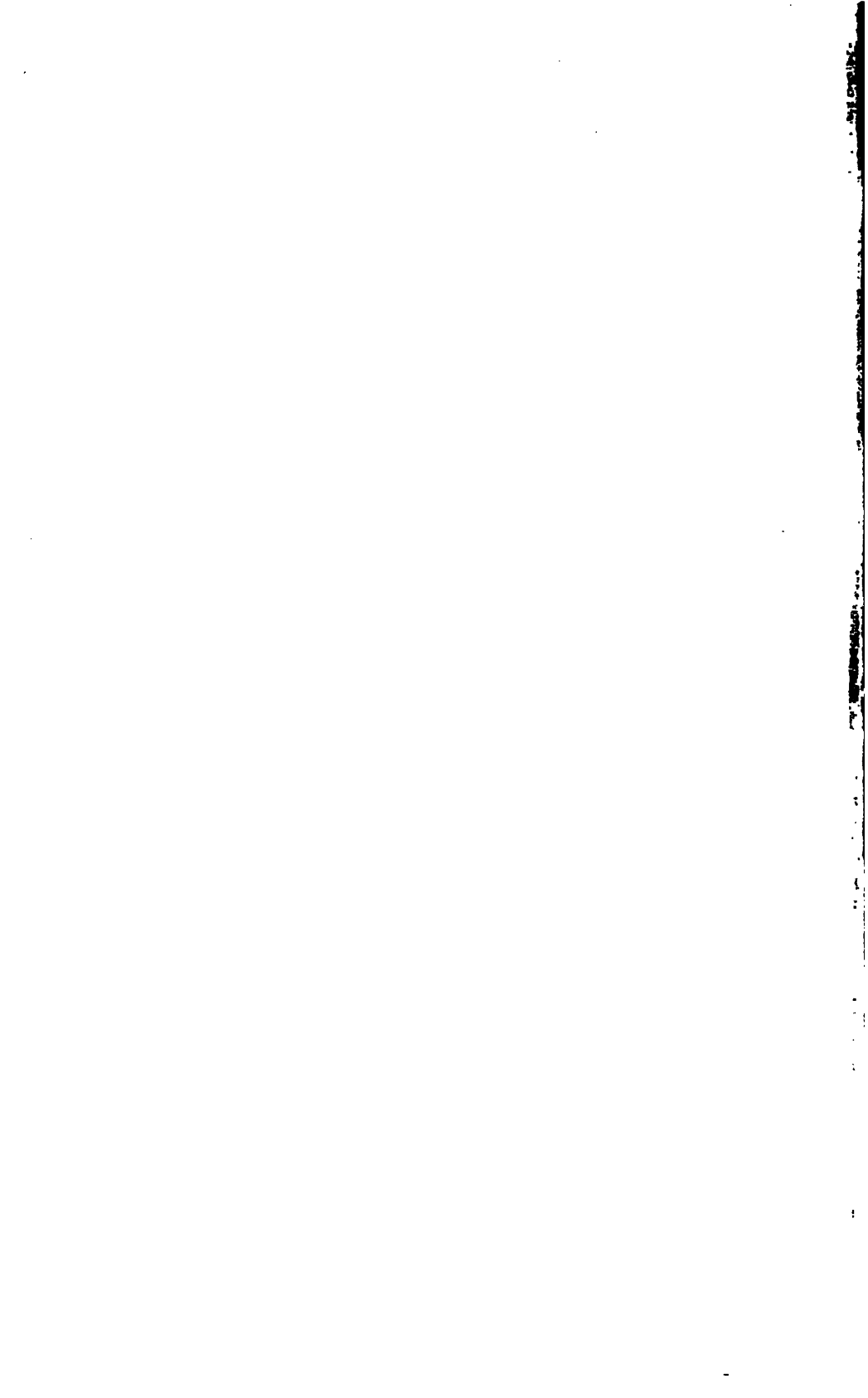
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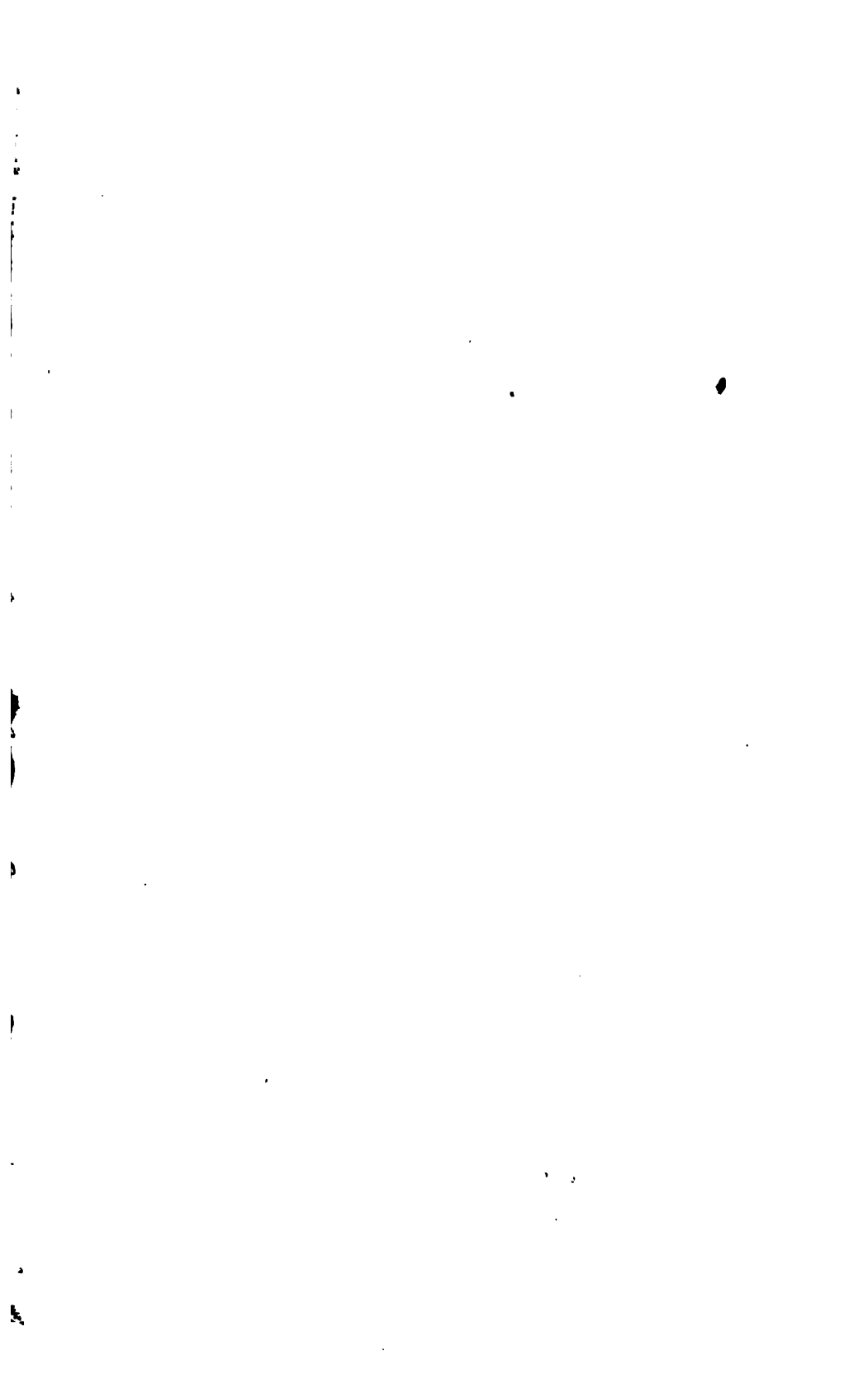
VENEZUELA.

GEOGRAPHICAL SKETCH, NATURAL RESOURCES,
LAWS, ECONOMIC CONDITIONS,
ACTUAL DEVELOPMENT, PROSPECTS OF
FUTURE GROWTH.

Edited and Compiled for the
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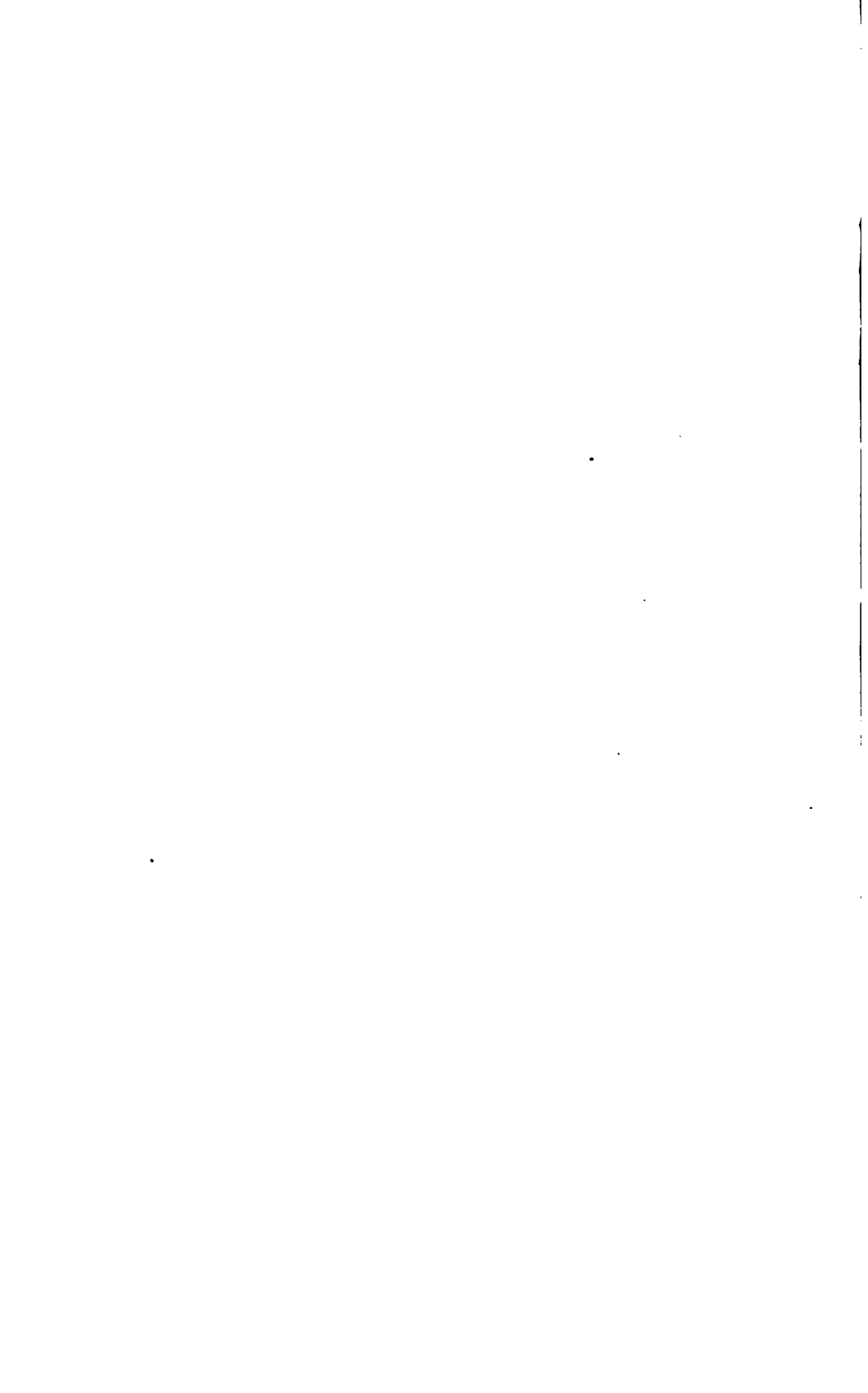
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GEN. CIPRIANO CASTRO, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF VENEZUELA.
(Courtesy of the Venezuelan Government.)

CHAPTER I.

GEOGRAPHICAL SKETCH, AREA, POPULATION, TOPOGRAPHY, CLIMATOLOGY, OROGRAPHY, METEOROLOGY, HYDROGRAPHY, FLORA, FAUNA, ETHNOGRAPHY, NATIVE RACES.

GEOGRAPHICAL SKETCH.

Geographical position.—Venezuela was discovered by Columbus on his third voyage on August 1, 1498. The first land he sighted was the coast comprised between Araya Point and Boca de Dragos.

The United States of Venezuela occupy the extreme northern limit of South America and are situated in the torrid zone between $1^{\circ} 40'$ south latitude and $12^{\circ} 26'$ north; and according to the meridian of Caracas, between $10^{\circ} 20'$ east and $6^{\circ} 25'$ west.

Caracas, the capital of the Republic, is situated $67^{\circ} 4' 45''$ west of the meridian of Greenwich, and $69^{\circ} 25'$ west of that of Paris. Its height above the level of the sea is 922 meters.

Boundaries.—Venezuela is bounded on the north by the Caribbean Sea, on the south by the United States of Brazil, on the east by British Guiana and the Atlantic Ocean, and on the west by the Republic of Colombia.

Boundary with Brazil.—The boundaries with Brazil were established by a special commission of both nations in 1880.

Boundary with British Guiana.—The boundaries with British Guiana were submitted to an arbitration tribunal, which met in Paris and gave its award on October 3, 1899, as follows:

AWARD SETTLING THE BOUNDARY BETWEEN VENEZUELA AND BRITISH GUIANA.

The arbitration treaty for the settlement of the boundary between the United States of Venezuela and the Colony of British Guiana was duly ratified on June 14, 1897, and the arbitration court, composed of five arbitrators, gave its award in Paris on October 3, 1899.

The award, after setting out the treaty of arbitration in full, and

after reciting the preliminary proceedings, determines the boundary line between the territory of the United States of Venezuela and that of Her Britannic Majesty to be as follows:

“Starting from the coast at Point Playa the line of boundary shall run in a straight line to the river Barima at its junction with the river Mururuma and thence along and mid stream of the latter river to its source and from that point to the junction of the river Haiowa with the Amakuru, and thence along the mid stream of the Amakuru to its source in the Imataka ridge, and thence in a southwesterly direction along the highest ridge of the spur of the Imataka Mountains to the highest point of the main range of such Imataka Mountains opposite to the source of the Barima, and thence along the summit of the main ridge in a southeasterly direction of the Imataka Mountains to the source of the Acarabisi, and thence along the mid stream of the Acarabisi to the Cuyuni, and thence along the northern bank of the river Cuyuni westward to its junction with the Wenamu, and thence following the mid stream of the Wenamu to its westernmost source, and thence in a direct line to the summit of Mount Roraima, and from Mount Roraima to the source of the Cotinga, and along the mid stream of that river to its junction with the Takutu, and thence along the mid stream of the Takutu to its source, thence in a straight line to the westernmost point of the Akarai Mountains, and thence along the ridge of the Akarai Mountains to the source of the Corentín, called the Cutari River: *Provided always*, That the line of delimitation fixed by this award shall be subject and without prejudice to any question now existing or which may arise to be determined between the Government of Her Britanic Majesty and the Republic of Brazil, or between the latter Republic and the United States of Venezuela.

“In fixing the above delimitation the arbitrators consider and decide that in times of peace the rivers Amakuru and Barima shall be open to navigation by the merchant ships of all nations subject to all just regulations and to the payment of light or other like dues: *Provided*, That the dues charged by the Republic of Venezuela and government of the colony of British Guiana in respect of the passage of vessels along the portions of such rivers respectively owned by them shall be charged as the same rates upon the vessels of Venezuela and Great Britain, such rates being no higher than those charged to any other nation: *Provided, also*, That no customs duties shall be chargeable either by the Republic of Venezuela or by the colony of British Guiana in respect of goods carried on board ships, vessels, or boats passing along the said rivers; but customs duties shall only be chargeable in respect of goods landed in the territory of Venezuela or Great Britain respectively.

"Executed and published in duplicate by us in Paris, this 3d day of October, A. D. 1899."

Boundary with Colombia.—The boundaries with Colombia were submitted to the arbitration of the King of Spain who gave his award on March 16, 1891, as follows:

AWARD ESTABLISHING THE BOUNDARY BETWEEN VENEZUELA AND
COLOMBIA.

[Award of the King of Spain given in Madrid on March 16, 1891.]

The award, after referring to the treaty of Caracas of September 14, 1881, and to the act of Paris of February 15, 1886, and after stating the grounds, determines the boundary as follows:

"SECTION I. From Los Mogotes, called Los Frailes, starting from the one nearest to Juyachi toward the line which separates the Upar Valley from the Province of Maracaibo and Río de la Hacha, along the highest ridge of the Oca Mountains to the points where the latter end, which points shall be the precise limits on the Upar Valley side, and the Juyachi Mogote on that of the mountain range and the seacoast.

"SEC. II. From the line which separates the Upar Valley from the Province of Maracaibo and Río de la Hacha along the highest ridges of the Perijá and Motilones Mountains to the source of the Oro River and thence to the mouth of the Grita River in the Zulía; along the line established by the statu quo which crosses the Catatumbo, Sardinata, and Tarra rivers.

"SEC. III. From the mouth of the Grita River in the Zulía, along the curve acknowledged now as forming the boundary, to the Don Pedro ravine and along the latter to the Táchira River.

"SEC. IV. From the Don Pedro ravine, in the Táchira, upstream to its source and thence along the highest ridge (páramo) of the spur of Tamá to the course of the Oirá River.

"SEC. V. Along the course of the Oirá River to its confluence with the Sarare, along the waters of the latter crossing through the middle part of the Desparramadero lagoon to the point where the latter enters the Arauca River, downstream to a point equidistant to the town of Arauca and to that on which the meridian of the confluence of the Masparro and Apure also intersects the Arauca River; from this point in a straight line to the Meta Apostadero and along the waters of this river to its mouth in the Orinoco River.

"SEC. VI. *Portion 1.* From the mouth of the Meta River in the Orinoco along the latter's mid stream to the Maipures Rapids. But, taking into account that the Atures village, from the time of its formation, makes use of a road on the left bank of the Orinoco to avoid the rapids from opposite said village of Atures to the landing place which

lies to the south of the Maipures, opposite Macuriana hill toward the north of the mouth of the Vichada, the right of way is hereby expressly recognized in favor of the United States of Venezuela, with the understanding that said right shall cease twenty-five years after the award has been published or when a road be constructed through Venezuelan territory, which renders unnecessary the passage through Colombia, the contracting parties reserving meanwhile the privilege of regulating in common the exercise of this right of way.

"*Portion 2.* From the Maipures Rapids along the mid stream of the Orinoco to its confluence with the Guaviare, along the course of the latter to the confluence of the Atabapo; along the Atabapo upstream to thirty-six kilometers to the north of the village of Yavita, drawing from there a straight line to the Guainía River thirty-six kilometers to the west of the village of Pimichín and along the bed of the Guainía which further on takes the name of Río Negro to the Cocuy stone.

"Given in the Royal Palace of Madrid on March 16, 1891."

Coast.—The coast of Venezuela, 8,020 kilometers long, is washed by the Caribbean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean, and contains 32 ports, 50 small bays, and many anchorages, not including the harbors existing in the lakes of Maracaibo and Tacarigua and the estuaries of great rivers.

Islands.—The Republic possesses 71 islands, besides a great number of rocks and islets lying in several places near the coast. The total area of these islands is 37,898 square kilometers, and they are divided among the following States and Territories:

	Sq. kilometers.
State of Miranda and Colon Territory (14)	1,619
State of Carabobo (4)	31
State of Bermúdez (25)	527
State of Falcón (16)	441
Delta Territory (12)	35,180
Total	37,898

Island of Margarita.—The largest of these islands is Margarita, which forms part of the Federal district, according to the constitution of April 27, 1904.

Rivers.—Within the territory of Venezuela rise 1,059 rivers. Seventy are navigable, such as the Orinoco, Apure, Portuguesa, Uribante, Guanare, Sarare, Masparro, Masparrito, Santo Domingo, Cojedes, and many others.

The Orinoco, which is the largest of these rivers and one of the three great streams of the Western Hemisphere, has a length of 2,378 kilometers and receives 436 tributaries. It derives its source from the Parima Ridge, at a height of 1,500 meters above sea level, and flows into the Atlantic Ocean.

Gulfs.—There are five gulfs on the coast of Venezuela. The Gulf of Maracaibo, which is the principal, is formed by the peninsulas of Goagira and Paraguaná and the coast of Coro and Maracaibo, and has an area of 540 square leagues. The second in size is called the Gulf of Paria, or "Golfo Triste," and is formed by the peninsula of Paria and the eastern coasts of Cumaná and by the lower estuaries of the Orinoco. It covers an area of 800 square leagues. The third is the small open gulf of Coro, measuring 60 square leagues. The fourth is that of Cariaco, in the State of Bermúdez, and measures 22 square leagues. The fifth is that of Santa Fé, with an area of only 2 square leagues.

Lakes.—As a complement of the rich hydrographical system of the country, Venezuela possesses 204 small lakes, some of which are important, namely, that of "El Zulia," with an area of 750 kilometers, the "Laguneta," in the State of Zulia, with 500 kilometers, that of Tacarigua, 85 kilometers in circumference, and the "Estero de Camaguán," in the Guárico section, with an area of 240 kilometers.

Principal lakes.—The most important lakes of Venezuela are the Lake of Maracaibo with an area of 17,500 square kilometers, and that of Valencia with 559. Fish and game are abundant in all of them.

Important geographical data.—The following are important geographical data of Venezuela (area in kilometers, 1,552,741):

Total length of the coasts	kilometers..	3,020
Number of gulfs.....		5
Number of straits		7
Number of capes		7
Number of peninsulas		7
Number of ports		32
Number of small bays		50
Number of islands.....		71
Number of mountains and ridges		40
Number of plateaus		42
Number of hydrographical basins		8
Number of first-class rivers		7
Number of second-class rivers		33
Number of third-class rivers		19
Number of fourth-class rivers		1,000
Number of branches of the Orinoco		36
Number of large lakes		2
Number of small lakes.....		204

AREA.

Total area.—The territory of Venezuela measures 1,552,741 square kilometers, according to the Venezuelan Yearbook (1896), but this total area is differently estimated at 1,545,763 square kilometers and 1,538,288 square kilometers. As an illustration, this area represents

about four times the total territory of Central America, or, in the United States, more than the combined areas of the eight great States of Texas, Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Arkansas.

The territory of Venezuela measures 1,242 kilometers from north to south, and 1,672 kilometers from east to west.

Perimetric extension.—The perimetric extension of territory is about 10,000 linear kilometers.

Area of zones.—This area is divided into three zones, as follows:

	Sq. kilometers.
Agricultural	349,481
Pastoral	405,620
Forest	797,640
Total	1,552,741

Area of hydrographical basins.—This area is divided into eight main hydrographical basins, as follows:

	Sq. kilometers.
Orinoco River	949,430
Negro River	100,359
Cuyuni River	158,109
Gulf of Cariaco	7,052
Gulf of Paria	30,811
Watersheds of the Coast	124,981
Watersheds of the Valencia Lake	4,615
Watersheds of the Maracaibo Lake	177,384
Total	1,552,741

POPULATION.

Population in 1810.—According to Humboldt, in this year the population of Venezuela was 802,100 inhabitants, distributed as follows:

Departments:	Inhabitants.
Orinoco	160,000
Venezuela	350,000
Apure	130,000
Zulia	162,100
Total	802,100

Population from 1810–1857.—The following table gives the population of Venezuela according to censuses:

Population according to censuses (1810 to 1857).

Province.	1810 (census of Humboldt).	1825 (official census). ^a	1825 (census of Codazzi).	1838 (estimate of Cajal).	1838 (official census).	1850 (census of Codazzi).
Cumaná	70,000	85,174	85,174	56,800	50,671	50,671
Guayana	30,000	16,310	56,310	26,110	15,426	56,471
Barcelona	45,000	36,147	36,147	57,000	52,108	52,108
Margarita	15,000	14,690	14,690	23,520	18,305	18,305
Caracas	350,000	166,966	166,966	267,200	237,118	237,118
Carabobo		159,874	74,317	247,908	96,977	96,977
Barinas		87,179	87,179	139,500	109,497	109,497
Apure	130,000	22,333	24,333	85,750	13,104	15,479
Maracaibo		25,044	30,044	40,090	33,882	42,882
Coro		21,678	21,678	34,690	40,476	40,476
Trujillo	33,400	32,551	32,551	52,110	44,798	44,798
Mérida	50,000	41,687	41,687	66,730	62,116	62,116
Barquisimeto			85,557		112,755	112,755
Aragua						
Guárico						
Cójeles						
Yaracuy						
Portuguesa						
Táchira						
Maturín						
Total	802,100	659,633	701,633	1,147,760	867,168	945,343

Province.	1844 (official census).	1846 (official census).	1847 (official census).	1854 (official census).	1857 (official census).
Cumaná	74,430	75,792	75,828	75,828	52,020
Guayana	13,568	13,568	13,568	13,568	91,120
Barcelona	65,458	75,591	73,557	78,634	125,238
Margarita	20,109	20,902	20,906	20,906	20,109
Caracas	318,383	389,074	389,074	173,042	173,042
Carabobo	141,440	141,620	141,550	230,509	112,000
Barinas	127,150	130,010	126,925	56,242	152,600
Apure	23,650	30,425	32,485	32,485	32,485
Maracaibo	43,445	47,319	47,319	39,718	92,000
Coro	71,491	74,972	72,321	72,321	72,321
Trujillo	58,490	59,724	59,724	60,987	60,987
Mérida	84,198	84,562	84,843	84,843	87,323
Barquisimeto	176,889	179,576	179,572	313,881	152,000
Aragua				81,485	61,485
Guárico				109,331	109,331
Cójeles					92,000
Yaracuy					118,591
Portuguesa				70,683	112,000
Táchira					40,000
Maturín					82,102
Total	1,218,716	1,273,155	1,267,692	1,564,433	1,888,199

From the year 1857 to 1873 no general census was taken.

Population in 1873.—The first general official census was taken in this year and gave a population of 1,784,194 inhabitants.

Population in 1881.—The second general official census was taken in this year, giving the population as 2,075,245, of which 1,005,518 were

^a The census of 1825 was taken as a basis for the division of the public debt of Colombia. This division was carried out according to the convention of December 23, 1834, in the following proportions:

State.	Inhabitants.	Proportional quota.	Quota assigned.	Difference (+ in favor, - against).
New Granada	1,228,250	51.60	<i>Per cent.</i> 50	<i>Per cent.</i> +1.60
Venezuela	659,633	27.72	28½	— .78
Ecuador	491,996	20.68	21½	— .82
Total	2,379,888	100	100	.....

males and 1,069,724 females. This showed an increase over the census of 1878 of 291,051.

Foreign residents in 1881.—The number of foreign residents in 1881 was 34,916, of whom 11,544 were Spaniards, 4,041 British, 3,227 Italians, 3,206 Dutch, 2,186 French, 1,171 German, 204 Danish, 8,729 Colombians, 78 from other South American Republics, 179 from North America, and 341 from other countries.

Population in 1886.—According to the Statistical Yearbook of Venezuela (1887) the population on January 1, 1886, was 2,198,320 inhabitants, of which 1,064,572 were males and 1,133,748 females.

Population in 1891.—The third general census, taken in this year, gave the population as 2,323,527, of which 1,137,139 were males and 1,186,388 females. The number of foreign residents was 42,898.

Population in 1894.—The Venezuelan Yearbook for 1896 gives a population for this year of 2,444,816, of which 1,197,069 were males and 1,247,747 females.

Foreign residents in 1894.—The number of foreign residents was 44,129, of which 13,179 were Spaniards, 11,081 Colombians, 6,154 British, 3,729 Dutch, 3,179 Italians, 2,545 French, 962 Germans, 518 South Americans, 232 North Americans, and 2,089 of other nationalities.

Demographic returns for 1895-1898.^a

Year.	Births.	Marriages.	Deaths.	Increase.
1894-95.....	68,980	5,809	48,255	20,725
1895-96.....	61,804	4,910	45,212	16,592
1896-97.....	72,808	4,625	49,519	22,784
1897-98.....	68,415	3,940	48,661	14,754

^a Data supplied by Ministerio de Fomento, 1908.

Population from 1810 to 1904.

Year.	Data.	Population.
1810.....	According to Humboldt.....	802,100
1825.....	Official figures.....	650,688
1838.....	Figures taken from former years.....	887,168
1839.....	According to Codazzi.....	945,848
1844.....	Official figures.....	1,218,716
1847.....	do.....	1,267,692
1854.....	do.....	1,664,438
1873.....	First general census of the Republic.....	1,784,194
1881.....	Second general census of the Republic.....	2,075,245
1886.....	Figures from the Venezuelan bureau of statistics.....	2,198,308
1887.....	do.....	2,207,982
1888.....	do.....	2,238,922
1889.....	do.....	2,269,020
1890.....	do.....	2,290,958
1891.....	Third general census of the Republic.....	2,323,527
1892.....	Figures from the Venezuelan bureau of statistic.....	2,350,847
1893.....	do.....	2,379,701
1894.....	do.....	2,444,816
1895.....	do.....	2,465,641
1896.....	do.....	2,482,188
1897.....	do.....	2,504,917
1898.....	do.....	2,519,671
1899.....	Estimated population exclusive of immigrants.....	2,588,671
1900.....	do.....	2,657,671
1901.....	do.....	2,678,671
1902.....	do.....	2,696,071
1903.....	do.....	2,614,671
1904.....	do.....	2,688,671

Indian Population.—The Indian population in 1839 and 1890 is given in the following table:

Year.	Independent.	Submitted.	Civilized.	Total.
1839	32,415	14,000	155,000	221,415
1890	66,000	20,000	240,000	326,000

Population, area, and density in 1903.—In the following table the population and area of Venezuela are compared with those of certain countries in Europe:

Country.	Area.	Population.	Inhabitants per square kilometer.
	<i>Sq. kilometers.</i>		
Venezuela.....	1,552,741	2,633,671	1.69
Germany.....	540,700	56,367,178	104
France.....	536,400	38,961,945	74
Italy.....	296,600	32,475,258	113
Netherlands.....	33,100	5,263,269	159
Belgium.....	29,450	6,799,999	231
Switzerland.....	41,340	3,315,448	80
Ireland.....	35,150	4,456,546	58
Total	1,552,740	147,639,631	95.14

The above table shows that the area of Venezuela aggregates that of the seven European countries therein considered, although its population is fifty-five times less than their total population. This shows that Venezuela's territory can easily contain one hundred and fifty million (150,000,000) inhabitants, which would give but 96.60 inhabitants to the square kilometer.

Venezuela's area, compared with that of Belgium, is fifty-two times larger than the latter's, and to have the latter's density of population it would have to be peopled by *358 million inhabitants*.

Population and area of American republics.—The following table compares the population, area, and density of population of Venezuela with those of some of the American Republics in 1903:

Country.	Area.	Population.	Inhabitants per square kilometer.
	<i>Sq. kilometers.</i>		
Brazil.....	8,305,000	16,330,000	1.94
United States.....	7,836,000	80,372,000	10.25
Argentina.....	2,950,000	5,027,000	1.70
Mexico.....	1,979,000	13,695,000	6.87
Bolivia.....	1,822,000	1,316,000	.99
Venezuela.....	1,552,000	2,633,000	1.69
Colombia.....	1,208,000	4,000,000	3.25
Peru.....	1,137,000	2,971,000	2.61
Chile.....	659,000	3,500,000	5.08

The above table shows that Venezuela in area holds the sixth place among the American Republics, in population the eighth, and in density of population the eighth.

TOPOGRAPHY.

Venezuela abounds in natural resources. The fluvial system penetrates the most remote points of her territories. The vast plains, covered with verdure the entire year, furnish bountiful subsistence to the herds of cattle. The mountain ranges are covered with forests, from which are obtained rare and precious woods, while the valleys and table-lands are rich in varieties of cereals and fruits which grow in abundance. The mines, containing valuable minerals, are, for the most part, undeveloped and open for investments.

CLIMATOLOGY.

The climate of Venezuela is peculiarly adapted to all classes of cultivation, the extremes of heat and cold prevalent in the northern climate being practically unknown.

The territory is divided into three zones, varying in temperature according to the height above the level of the sea, and classified as cold, temperate, and hot lands. In the regions within the latitude of 8° and 9° the snow-covered lands are found, disappearing at a height of 4,136 meters above the sea level, although in the hot season snow melts at a height of 4,526 above the sea level, which is within the line of "perpetual snows."

Cold lands.—The highest peaks in the chain of mountains of Mérida are 4,580 meters. At a height of 4,526 meters, where the thermometer registers 2° or 3° above zero, all vegetation ceases and nothing is to be seen but snow-covered moss and weeds.

Temperate lands.—The temperate lands are located between 585 and 2,144 meters above the level of the sea, where the temperature varies from 18° to 25° centigrade. This belt of mild climate marks the home of the prosperity of the country, the cultivation of the greater part of plants useful to man thriving here, where the temperature is more favorably adapted to the growing of staple products than in the other zones.

Hot lands.—The hot lands begin at the level of the sea and extend to 585 meters altitude. The thermometer in this region varies from $25^{\circ} 50'$ to $32^{\circ} 67'$ centigrade.

The healthy condition of Venezuela's climate is attested by the low average of death rate, and the number of persons who attain the age of a hundred years and more.

Seasons.—Properly speaking, there are only two seasons in Venezuela—the dry and the rainy, or summer and winter. The former commences when the sun enters the Tropic of Capricorn and the latter when it comes into the Tropic of Cancer. The rainy season is therefore from April to October, during which period the temperature rises most, while the remainder of the year the air is fresh and the climate generally mild and agreeable.

Prevailing winds.—The prevailing winds of the torrid zone blow over Venezuela and vary between the south and east in the winter. In the dry season, or summer, the prevailing winds are from the northeast and they also blow freshly from the north and northwest, with greater frequency in November and December than in February and March. The showers that occur during these months are not as heavy as those that fall in winter, which are known by the name of *nortes* (northers).

Temperature of cities.—The temperature of the principal cities and towns of Venezuela is given in the following table:

City or town.	Maximum.		Minimum.		Mean.	
	° C.	F.	° C.	F.	° C.	F.
Federal District:						
Caracas.....	29	84.2	9	48.2	19	66.2
Macuto.....	32.50	90	26	78.8	29.25	85
Antimano.....	28	83.2	8.75	47	18.37	65
La Guaira.....	32.50	90	26	78.8	29	84.2
Los Teques.....	26	78.8	8.50	47	17.25	63
Petare.....	29	84.2	17	62.6	23	73.4
Asunción (Margarita Island).....	30	86	23	73.4	26.50	79
State of Aragua:						
La Victoria.....	31.50	88	20	68	25.75	77
Ciudad de Cura.....	30.50	87	22.50	72	26.50	79
State of Bermúdez:						
Cumaná.....	31.50	88.1	23.50	74	27.50	81.1
Barcelona.....	31.40	88	23.50	74	27.45	81
Maturín.....	30.50	87	24.50	76	27.50	78.1
State of Bolívar:						
Ciudad Bolívar.....	33	91.4	24	75.2	28.50	83
San Fernando.....	32	89.6	29	84.2	30.50	87
State of Carabobo:						
Valencia.....	30.50	87	19	66.2	24.75	76
Montalbán.....	26	78.8	18.50	65	22.25	72
Bejuma.....	25.50	78	18.50	65	22	71.6
Nirgua.....	25	77	18	64.4	21.50	70
State of Falcón:						
Coro.....	32.50	90	23.50	74	28	82.4
Cumarebo.....	29.50	86	23	73.4	26.25	79
State of Guárico:						
Calabozo.....					29.25	79
State of Lara:						
Barquisimeto.....	29	84.2	22	71.6	25.50	78
San Felipe.....	30	86	24	75.2	27	80.6
Tocuyo.....	28.50	83	23	73.4	25.75	78.4
Quibor.....	29.50	85	24	75.2	26.75	79
Yaritagua.....	30	86	24	75.2	27	80.6
State of Mérida:						
Mérida.....	23.53	74	8.75	47	16.14	61
Mucuchies.....	20	68	6.75	43	13.37	56
State of Miranda:						
Ocumare.....					29.25	79
State of Táchira:						
San Cristóbal.....	25	77	17	62.6	21	69.8
Lobatera.....	22	71.6	15	59	18.50	65
Ejido.....	20.89	69	8.25	45	14.57	58
Balladores.....	21	69.8	10	50	15.50	60
State of Trujillo:						
Trujillo.....	26	78.8	18.50	65	22.25	72
Boconó.....	21.50	70	15	59	18.25	64.8
State of Zamora:						
San Carlos.....	32.50	90	24	75.2	28.25	82.6
Guanare.....	32.50	90	25	77	28.75	83
Barinas.....	31.50	88	24	75.2	27.75	81
Ospino.....	31	87.8	24.50	76	27.75	81
Araure.....	31	87.8	24.50	76	27.75	81
State of Zulia:						
Maracaibo.....	32	89.6	23	73.4	27.50	81
Perijá.....	31	87.8	44.25	76	27.62	81.1

OROGRAPHY.

There are three principal chains of mountains in Venezuela.

First mountain range.—The first is a ramification of the Andes, which divides at Pamplona, one branch running in a northerly direction

to Ocaña and gradually sloping toward the Perijá ridge and Oca range in the Goagira peninsula. The other branch, which is the principal one, runs in an east, northeasterly direction. This is the alpine region of the Republic and forms a compact and broad mass with different peaks perpetually covered with snow. The base of this chain of mountains is thickly covered with virgin mountains where the "theobroma" tree (food of the Gods), which produces the cacao, grows spontaneously. From the foot of the range toward the north the land slopes gradually to the Lake of Maracaibo; toward the south it descends to the banks of the Apure River. All this mass rises in an amphitheater forming rich table-lands, plateaus, and plains. The valleys are the only inhabited and cultivated parts of it.

Second mountain range.—The second system, the coast range of Venezuela, intersects the Andes near Barquisimeto and runs in parallel ridges to the coast of the Caribbean Sea, from east to west.

Llanos.—The southern ridge of this range forms the boundary of the pasture lands called "llanos," which extend to the Apure and Orinoco rivers. On the west and north the Orinoco is surrounded by the llanos, which extensive plains slope gradually from 2,400 meters altitude to the river. They are composed of detritus, gravels, sands, clay, and ferruginous breccias, resulting from the denudation of the neighboring mountain chains and probably overlying Tertiary marine strata. The monotonous plains are cut by the rivers into table lands called mesas, remarkable for their dryness in comparison with the humid ground of the actual valleys. In the west, especially near the Cordillera, the plain produces extensive primeval forests or selvas, while in the State of Bermudez, between Maturín and Ciudad Bolívar, there is a typical desert, with drifts of sand and barren hills. The palma moriche (*Maritia flexuosa*) borders the rivulets on the mesas in double rows, while groups of trees appear wherever subterranean water exists. The scenery of the llanos therefore frequently resembles that of an American park. The principal river is the Apure; but the hydrographic axis is formed by the Cojedes and Portuguesa with the lower Apure into which they flow. Most of the rivers of the llanos converge to this line, which leads backward to the division between the Cordillera and the Caribbean Mountains. The Unare River is the only one the valley of which penetrates deeply into the llanos from the sea, while in the east all the rivers flow eastward to the Orinoco Delta and the Gulf of Paria. The llaneros, or people of the plain, live chiefly by cattle breeding. The principal river ports, San Fernando de Apure and Nutrias, export live stock and produce derived from this industry. The northern ridge forms the seacoast descending from Cape Cordera to Cumaná, rising again in the Araya and Paria peninsulas and ending at the Boca de Dragos. These two ridges form

the fertile Tuy and Aragua valleys and beautiful Valencia Lake. This is the most cultivated part of Venezuela. The highest peaks of this range do not reach the snow limit. A third chain of the second system is submarine and parallel to the coast. It commences at the Island of Margarita, appears again at Tortuga Island and at Coro, and ends at the Lake of Maracaibo.

Third mountain range.—The third system consists of the Parima range of mountains and differs from the two first in its situation and geologic formation. The vast region of Venezuelan Guiana which it occupies may be considered a convex tableland, of an elongated shape from east to west, in which rise at intervals large mountains separated from each other by plains which are crossed by the principal rivers of the eight great watersheds of Venezuela.

Height of principal peaks.—The following table gives the height of the principal peaks in the three chains of mountains of Venezuela:

Peak. ^a	Height.	Peak. ^a	Height.
ANDEAN RANGE.		ANDEAN RANGE—continued.	
	<i>Meters.</i>		<i>Meters.</i>
The Sierra Nevada of Mérida.....	4,580	Linares.....	3,768
El Salado.....	4,230	Tetas y Atajo.....	3,762
Mucuchíes.....	4,320	Niquitao.....	3,696
Santo Domingo Peak.....	4,146	Cabimbu.....	3,578
Conejas.....	4,180	Mendoza.....	3,068
Pan de Azúcar.....	4,138		
Alto del Fraile.....	4,096	COAST RANGE.	
Culata.....	4,012	Naiguatá.....	2,800
Pueblo de Mucuchíes.....	4,012	Silla.....	2,628
Granate.....	3,941	Cares.....	2,466
Volcán.....	3,911	Cálculo.....	2,665
Culata Veguilla.....	3,927	Ceuta Peak.....	2,120
Bocomboco.....	3,919	Peoní.....	2,048
Taplas.....	3,914	Tres Picachos de Bergantín.....	1,506
Aricagua.....	3,885		
Migará.....	3,867	INLAND RANGE.	
Tuno.....	3,844	Platilla.....	1,886
La Sal.....	3,836	Guraima.....	1,670
Don Pedro.....	3,860	Pao Zárate.....	1,597
Mollino.....	3,168	Roncador.....	1,463
Cuchilla.....	3,029	Peñon de Maraguapa.....	2,500
Balallón.....	3,210	Cumuvano.....	1,882
Tama.....	3,200	Quinara.....	2,257
Agripa.....	3,061	Zamuro.....	2,240
Caldera.....	3,799		

^a Venezuelan Yearbook, pp. 24-26.

METEOROLOGY.

Rainfall (Cajigal Observatory).—The table below gives the rainfall from 1891 to 1902, and although it can not impart a complete knowledge of its periodicity it will at least prove that it is not decreasing, as has been wrongly believed. In fact, the quantity of rainfall from 1901 to 1902 was greater than that from 1891 to 1894. The greatest rainfall was recorded in the year 1892-93.

Comparative table of rainfall at the Cajigal Observatory, 1891-1902.

Year.	Quantity of rainfall.												Annual totals.
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	
	mm.	mm.	mm.	mm.	mm.	mm.	mm.	mm.	mm.	mm.	mm.	mm.	mm.
1891.....	18.7	4	16.1	48.6	154.2	45.8	165	69.8	96.6	112.1	82.3	42.8	756
1892.....	33.2	33	36.9	95.9	185.5	150.9	194.3	122.9	95.7	188	88.6	19	1,202.9
1893.....	4	8.6	.7	29.3	136.7	71.2	213.2	48	146	151.8	79.4	92.3	976.2
1894.....	28.6	15.5	5.1	0	42.8	80.6	60.9	127.8	99.3	64.8	78.9	58.2	602
1895.....	06.9	3.6	13.7	17.7	45	136.8	56	65.4	98.9	117.3	134	40.1	784.4
1896.....	18.2	.2	4.8	115.3	110	118.4	36.6	69.8	33.2	64.5	128	54.2	748.2
1897.....	40.7	8.8	0	5.4	79	99.1	126.1	92.4	38.6	139.2	80.3	78.2	782.8
1898.....	16.9	0	68.3	17.7	28.9	78.8	107.2	150.9	103.8	79.4	105.2	12.3	762.9
1899.....	15.5	4.4	2.1	0	0	116	63.5	88.5	101.3	113.9	58.8	47.7	611.7
1900.....	22.2	4.7	49.6	19.7	14.4	88.3	185.2	140.5	88.1	141.3	109.5	0	863.5
1901.....	16.4	.4	1.1	.9	38.6	76.9	186.9	118.2	75.4	141.4	129.1	38	823.3
1902.....	61.6	0	0	15.3	84.4	124.9	94.7	75.4	178	52.5	27	68.8	782.1

The quantity of rainfall per minute during storms and the velocity attained by the wind are given in the following table:

Month.	Day.	Year.	Hour.	Duration.	Quantity of rainfall per minute.
					mm.
June.....	17	1896	p. m.	h. m.	mm.
May.....	27	1897	6	10	0.83
July.....	20	1897	2	30	.82
September.....	29	1899	2.30	2 00	.50
July.....	7	1900	11.30	1 10	.52
September.....	10	1900	3	2 50	.42
				1 00	.54

L. UGETO,

Director of the Cajigal Observatory.

CARACAS, August, 1903.

HYDROGRAPHY.

Maritime hydrography.—On the coasts of Venezuela the reigning wind comes from the east, but with variations of a daily and annual period. The daily period is caused by the wind blowing from the sea onto the land and from the coasts toward the sea. The sea breeze begins at about 10 a. m., lasts until about midday, and diminishes afterwards. Therefore, when the sun is at the zenith the wind attains its greatest force and when it reaches the horizon it has nearly ceased. The land wind, called "terral," begins about midnight and blows until sunrise.

The annual period is produced by the proximity or distance of the sun, which causes the two only seasons which are known in the Tropics. In this first case winds are not very strong and in the second they are fresh and agreeable and blow generally from the northeast.

On the coast of Guiana there are never any land winds and there exists but two currents. One is the general current and the other is caused by the tide. On the main coast from the island of Trinidad to Cape La Vela the current follows the neighboring islands with an inclination toward the south and with a velocity of about 2 kilometers per hour. From Cape La Vela the main current flows to the west-northwest and as it spreads diminishes in velocity.

Temperature of the sea.—The following table gives the average temperature of the sea taken on the surface of deep water not far from the coast, according to Codazzi:

	° C.
Gulf of Paria.....	26.3
Gulf of Cariaco.....	26.6
Coast of Barcelona and Cumaná.....	25.6
Coast of Caracas and Carabobo.....	25.5
Coast of Coro and Maracaibo.....	24.7

NOTE.—The observations have been made at several points of the coast at different hours in different epochs. This table is based on more than 100 observations.

When the thermometer is placed in water 50 centimeters to 1 meter deep, a rise of 4° to 5° takes place.

Continental hydrography.—The soil of Venezuela is watered by 1,059 rivers and brooks, and of these 436 are Orinoco affluents; 230 discharge into the Caribbean Sea, 124 into the Gulf of Paria, 200 into the Lake of Maracaibo, and 22 into the Lake of Valencia. The principal navigable rivers are the Orinoco, Apure, Meta, Caura, Negro, and Guárico.

Table of the hydrographical regions of Venezuela, according to Codazzi.

Hydrographic regions.	Extention in square leagues. ^a				Number of rivers per region and class.				
	Group of Parima.	Mountain ranges of Venezuela.	Mountain ranges of New Granada.	Total per region.	First class.	Second class.	Third class.	Fourth class.	Fifth class.
Orinoco.....	13,400	7,800	9,300	31,200	5	26	11	394	436
Cuyuni.....	3,699	.....	.....	3,699	1	1	1	88	91
Rio Negro.....	2,350	.....	2,000	4,350	1	2	1	32	36
Maracaibo.....	.....	4,150	400	4,550	.....	2	3	115	120
Valencia.....	.....	108	.....	108	.....	.....	.....	22	22
Cariaco.....	.....	165	.....	165	.....	.....	.....	34	34
Paria.....	.....	604	.....	604	.....	1	1	88	90
Sea drainage.....	.....	2,024	.....	2,924	.....	1	2	227	230
Total.....	19,449	15,751	11,700	47,600	7	33	19	1,000	1,059

^a One square league equals 81 square kilometers.

^b Codazzi fails to account for 77,140 square kilometers.

Orinoco hydrographical basin.—The Orinoco River has its source in the Parima Range, flows nearly due east, covers a course of 2,373 kilometers in length, and is navigable for 1,930 kilometers from the Atlantic Ocean, where it empties its ponderous volume of water through 36 channels, 17 of which are mouths forming a huge estuary of 20,061 square kilometers. It ranks third in importance in the Western Hemisphere, the Amazon and Mississippi being the only two larger. Of its 436 affluents, some navigable tributaries run south and join the Amazon River, or its affluents, opening thus additional communication with the ocean through that great fluvial artery.

Delta of the Orinoco.—The delta of the Orinoco is formed by 36 channels or mouths and is twofold. The western delta consists of 3 large, 3 lesser, and 16 small channels. The eastern delta consists of 3 large, 3 lesser, and 8 small channels.

The following table gives the statistics, compiled by Codazzi, regarding length, depth, bars, and tides of all the delta channels:

WESTERN DELTA.

Name of channel.	Length.	Depth.	Bars.	Tide.	
				Rise.	Velocity.
Large:	<i>Leagues.</i>	<i>Fet.</i>		<i>Fet.</i>	<i>Miles.</i>
Macareo	50	12 to 14	6	6	3
Manamo	48	14 to 15	5	6	3
Federnales	34½	10 to 15	8	6	4
Lesser:					
Tucupita	22	7 to 8		5	3
Cucuína	21	9 to 10		5	3
Manamito	16	9 to 10		5	3
Small:					
Vagré	6½	12 to 13		6	3
Morocoto	5	9		6	
Guina Moreno	5	9		6	
Guajara	5½	9		6	
Guaranoco	9½	9		6	
Capure	18	7 to 8		5	
Cayrima	5	9		5	
Cucuína	12	7 to 8		5	
Macayrito	8	8		4	
Cafío-Rico	13	6		4	
Guamal	16	7 to 8		3½	
Guara	17	7 to 8		3½	
Guarítico	8½	7 to 8		3	
Tres Manamitos	5	4		6	
Angosturita	4½	5		5	
Bomblador	3	4		6	

EASTERN DELTA.

Large:					
Loran	22	10 to 12	8	3	3
Araguá Grande	39	5 to 10		3	3
Mariusa	30	6 to 8		4	3
Lesser:					
Gülgüina	18½	8		4	3
Araguapiche	15	5 to 10		3½	3
Diaricaponoco	10½	10		3½	3
Small:					
Yaraguara	6½	10		3	
Ugene	5	8		3	
Guacase	10½	8 to 9		3	
Araguarito	17	4		3	
Secupana	15	(a)			
Caneyma	9½	(b)			
Braso Mariusa	8 to 6	(b)		4	3
Mariuisita	13	Full sea.		4	3

^a Dry in summer.

^b Little water.

Four rivers of the first class, 25 of the second, and 11 of the third belong to the hydrographical basin of the Orinoco. Among those of the first class are the Apure, Guaviare, Meta, and Caroní.

Apure River.—This river rises from the snow-covered peak of Batallón to the south of La Grita in Colombia, where it is called Uribante. It runs parallel to the Meta and receives the waters of 150 tributaries extending over an area of 128,340 square kilometers. The total length of the Apure's course is 1,187 kilometers, of which 1,005 are navigable. The Apure flows into the Orinoco through four different channels.

Guaviare River.—This river has its source on the east of the Andean Range near San Juan. Its course measures 663 kilometers and receives many affluents, the two principal of which are the Inírida and the

Atabapo. The total watershed of the Guaviare covers an area of 37,280 square kilometers.

Meta River.—This river rises in the Andean region near Chingara and Sumapas. Its watershed is of 111,600 square kilometers and its course 902 kilometers in length, 898 kilometers of which are navigable.

Caroní River.—This river has its origin on the Parima Range. Its hydrographical basin covers 56,800 square kilometers and comprises 46 rivers. The total length of the Caroní is 892 kilometers, of which 782 are navigable.

Area of the Orinoco hydrographical basin.—This great hydrographical basin covers 949,430 square kilometers, which, as an illustration, is about twice the area of Spain.

Río Negro hydrographical basin.—This river, originally called Curana by the aborigines, which means black, rises in the Andean Range and takes the name of Guainía. On passing into Venezuelan territory it has accumulated the waters of a basin 62,000 square kilometers. The waters of this river are black; it runs from west to east to Maroa, whence it turns to the south-southwest and receives the Casiquiare as affluent and loses the name of Guainía and is called Río Negro. The basin of this river, on the Venezuelan side, is 26,350 square kilometers in extension. It branches off to the Orinoco before reaching San Carlos and then continues its course toward the Amazon River, which on receiving it as a confluent, is increased by an aggregate tribute of 86 rivers and 60 rivulets. The total area of the Río Negro hydrographical basin is 100,359 square kilometers.

Cuyuni hydrographical basin.—The Cuyuni River is the recipient of all the waters of this basin which is 158,109 square kilometers in extension. This basin is formed by the Cocoi, Rorainia, Riconote, Supano, and part of the Pocarainia ranges on the one side and by the Yuruary and Inmtaca ranges on the other. The principal tributaries of the Cuyuni are the Masaruni, the Yuruari and the Sibauri. The Cuyuni flows into the Essequibo, 82 kilometers from its mouth.

Cariaco hydrographical basin.—The Gulf of Cariaco is formed by the peninsula of Araya, the beach of Cumaná, the coast of Mariquital, and the marshes of Cariaco. It receives the waters of 34 rivers, the largest of which is the Neverí, which rises on the Turumiquire Mountain. The total area of this basin is 7,052 square kilometers.

Paria hydrographical basin.—The southern portion of the range of the Parima Peninsula sheds its waters into the Parima Gulf. The Guanipa and Guarapiche rivers flow into this gulf, besides 88 smaller rivers. The Turumiquire ridge on the north and the slopes of the Guanipa table-land form this basin which measures 30,811 square kilometers.

Coast hydrographical basin.—From the peninsula of Paraguaná an imaginary line drawn across Coro, the plains of Taratarase, and the Carora Mountains form the western declivity of the coast. The moun-

tains, which separate the Tocuyo Valley from that of Barquisimeto to Duaca and Urachiche toward the Nirgua Mountains, form the eastern declivity toward the Caribbean Sea. Two hundred and thirty rivers, besides 400 rivulets, discharge into this sea. The three principal rivers are the Tocuyo (463 kilometers), the Unare (246 kilometers), and the Tuy (265 kilometers long). The total area of this basin is 124,981 square kilometers.

Valencia Lake hydrographical basin.—The Aragua valleys are circular in form and mountains of different heights surround them. At the bottom of this valley a lake 516 meters above the sea level receives all its drainage. This is the Lake of Valencia, which measures a perimeter of 2,046 square kilometers, with 22 islands, and receives the waters of 22 rivers. This basin has an area of 4,615 square kilometers.

Maracaibo hydrographical basin.—The Lake of Maracaibo has a circumference of 6,634 kilometers and covers 3,379 square kilometers. The great valley, the centre of which it occupies, gathers the waters from the Ocaña and Perijá mountains on the west; on the south those from Mérida and Trujillo; on the east those from Jirihara and Empalado. Three well-defined declivities from the west, south, and east drain their waters by means of 120 rivers and 400 rivulets into the lake which has three outlets or mouths, viz, two small, those of Paijana and Oribono, and a large one, 3 kilometers in breadth, between Zapara and the island of San Carlos. The principal tributaries of the lake are the Zulia (318 kilometers), the Catatumbo, now called Encontrados (289 kilometers), the Motatán (255 kilometers), and the Escalante (198 kilometers). The gulf receives also on its northern extremity the drainage of the Goagira Peninsula and of Coro. The total extension of this basin is 177,384 square kilometers.

Hereunder are given tables of some of the rivers of Venezuela and of hydrographic temperatures:

Table of the rivers of Venezuela (first, second, and third class), according to Codazzi.

Name of river.	Length of course.	Navigable length.	Square leagues of drainage.	Hydrographic region.	Mountain system, whence they rise.
First class:					
Orinoco	426	400	31,000	Orinoco	Parima.
Apure	213	188	4,140	.....	Mérida.
Guaviare	210	160	3,600	.....	New Granada.
Meta	210	172	3,600	.....	.....
Caroni	185	160	2,800	.....	Parima.
Cuyuni	180	129	3,500	Cuyuni .....	.....
Guainía	160	72	3,990	Rio Negro	New Granada.
Second class:					
Caura	175	120	1,620	Orinoco	Parima.
Arauca	160	140	1,300	.....	New Granada.
Guárico	124	60	1,200	.....	Coast.
Inírida	123	115	650	.....	New Granada.
Paragua	123	115	600	.....	Parima.
Ventuari	117	100	1,300	.....	.....
Mazaruni	110	60	600	Cuyuni .....	.....
Boconó	102	52	300	Orinoco	Mérida.
Portuguesa	96	66	1,300	.....	.....
Tocuyo	96	44	550	The sea .....	.....
Vichada	92	33	1,000	Orinoco	New Granada.
Capanaparo	90	50	300	Orinoco .....	.....
Caparro	90	44	200	.....	Mérida.
Siapa	90	51	300	Rio Negro	Parima.

^a One square league = 31 square kilometers.

Table of the rivers of Venezuela (first, second, and third class), according to Codazzi—Con.

Name of river.	Length of course.	Navigable length.	Square leagues of drainage.	Hydrographic region.	Mountain system, whence they rise.
Second class—Continued:					
Guanare.....	82	50	250	Orinoco.....	Mérida.
Guanipa.....	76	24	225	Paria.....	Coast.
Yuruari.....	75	20	400	Cuyuni.....	Parima.
Casiquiare.....	72	72	1,190	Rio Negro	
Tigre.....	72	44	300	Orinoco.....	Coast.
Orinoco.....	71	30	300		
Uribante.....	69	44	300		Mérida.
Santo Domingo.....	67	29	200		
Zulia.....	66	44	400	Maracaibo.....	New Granada.
Sipapo.....	63	55	300	Orinoco.....	Parima.
Padamo.....	64	44	300	do.....	Do.
Aro.....	63	48	400		
Manapire.....	63	12	225		Coast.
Suripa.....	62	34	150		Mérida.
Cojede.....	60	29	200		Coast.
Catatumbo (now called Encon- dos).	60	40	750	Maracaibo.....	New Granada.
Sarare.....	60	22	700	Orinoco.....	
Cuchivero.....	60	50	350		Parima.
Cunucunuma.....	60	42	300		
Third class:					
Paguay.....	58	30	200	Orinoco.....	Mérida.
Purumi.....	58	30	200	Cuyuni.....	Parima.
Canagua.....	56	29	200	Orinoco.....	Mérida.
Ocamo.....	56	28	125		Parima.
Atabapo.....	56	29	800		
Tuy.....	56	24	250	The sea.....	Coast.
Guarapiche.....	54	23	400	Paria.....	
Motatán.....	53	26	250	Maracaibo.....	
Pacimoni.....	52	31	250	Rio Negro.....	Parima.
Masparro.....	52	29	125	Orinoco.....	Mérida.
Morichal Largo.....	52	42	125		Coast.
Unare.....	51	26	400	The sea.....	
Suapure.....	51	29	200	Orinoco.....	Parima.
Ycavero.....	51	29	200		
Aguirre.....	45	25	250		
Socuy.....	43	22	150	Maracaibo.....	Mérida.
Escalante.....	41	25	300		
Imataca.....	41	20	100	Orinoco.....	Parima.
Mavaca.....	31	25	350		

Table of hydrographic temperatures of Venezuela according to Codazzi.

Name of river, lake, or gulf.	Latitude north.		Tempera- ture.
	°	'	° C.
Lake Maracaibo.....	9	30 to 10	25.5 to 26.6
Lake Valencia.....		10	23 to 23.5
Tecarigua Lagoon.....		10 20	25.6 to 27
Sinamaitica Lagoon.....		11	25 to 25.6
Zulia Lagoon.....		9	25.5 to 26
Guasconica Lagoon.....		11	26 to 26.6
Arestinga Lagoon.....		11	26 to 26.6
Catatumbo, Zulia, and Escalante rivers.....	8	to 9	26 to 26.8
Tocuyo and Limón rivers.....		11	26 to 26.6
Tuy and Unare rivers.....	9	to 10	26.6 to 27.7
Saint-Jean and Guarapiche rivers.....		10	26.8 to 27.7
Morichal Largo and Tigre rivers.....	9	to 9 30	25.6 to 27.7
Guárico and Pao rivers.....	8	to 9 30	26.6 to 27.7
Portuguesa and Cojede rivers.....	8	to 9 30	25 to 26
Guánare and Boconó rivers.....	8	to 8 30	26 to 26.7
Masparro and Santo Domingo rivers.....	8	to 8 30	26 to 27.7
Canaguá and Suripa rivers.....	7	to 7 30	25 to 26
Caparro and Uribante rivers.....	7	to 7 30	25 to 26
Apure and Arauca rivers.....	7	to 8	27 to 27.7
Meta and Capanaparo rivers.....	6	to 7	26.6 to 27.2
Caura and Cuchivero rivers.....	7	to 8	25.8 to 26.6
Guaviare and Vichada rivers.....	4	to 5	25 to 26
Inirida and Atabapo rivers.....	3	to 4	24 to 24.4
Rio Negro and Pacimoni.....	1	to 2	23.8 to 24.4
Casiquiare and Sipapo rivers.....	3	to 4	23 to 24.4
Cunucunuma and Padamo rivers.....	3	to 4	23.8 to 24.4
Ventuari and Sipapo rivers.....	4	to 5	23.8 to 24.4
Paragua and Oris rivers.....	5	to 6	23 to 25
Caroni and Cuyuni rivers.....	6	to 8	24 to 28
Orinoco River.....	4	to 8	27.2 to 28.4

FLORA.^a

Characteristic forms of vegetation.—The general idea of the flora of a country comprises the characteristic forms of its vegetation, not only from the standpoint of systematic botany, but likewise from that of the distribution of species in the vertical and horizontal senses, and how they contribute, by their aspect and aggroupment, to determine the general aspect of the country.

As Venezuela lies in the Torrid Zone, with an extensive seacoast, great number of large rivers, high mountains, vast plains, and dense forests, it possesses one of the richest floras of the world. According to Dove's map, Venezuela is comprised between the two isothermic lines of 21°. Vegetation never suffers interruption, and the ever-green foliage of the forests characterizes their tropical exuberance. Venezuela belongs to the region of the Trade winds which produce sudden condensations and abundant rain on the coast. The virgin forests on the extensive plains of the Orinoco Delta, and all Guayana could not exist without a very long rainy season. In the interior of the country there are two well-defined seasons. When the northeast wind blows on the coast the plains experience the dry season and vegetation appears dead. The southeast winds produce the rainy season. Temperature and humidity determine the conditions of the soil.

Flora of the plains.—The principal characteristics of the flora of the plains is the preponderance of grasses which cover the soil and groups of trees and palm trees which dot the vast plains. Among the grasses figure the *Mimosa*, *Aeschynomene*, *Desmanthus*, *Zornia*, and *Eriosema*. Among the verbenacea are the *Cypura graminea*, *Hypoxis decubens*, and *Craniolaria annea*.

Among the palm trees there are the *Copernicia tectorum* Mart., the *Guiljelma piritis* Krst., the *Mauritia flexuosa* L., the *Marara bicuspidata* Krst., and many others. The margins of rivers have richer vegetation and samanes (*fam. coniferas*), ceibos (*fam. bombacea*), jabillos (*fam. cuforbiacea*), and mijaguas, guanios (*Inga*), and apanates attain gigantic proportions.

The flora of the plains has no endemic genus.

Little is known about the granitic region to the south of the Orinoco. In many places the rocks are not covered with earth, and vegetation is poor. Palm trees such as *Leopoldonia*, *Piassaba*, and *Mauritia Caraná* grow in this region.

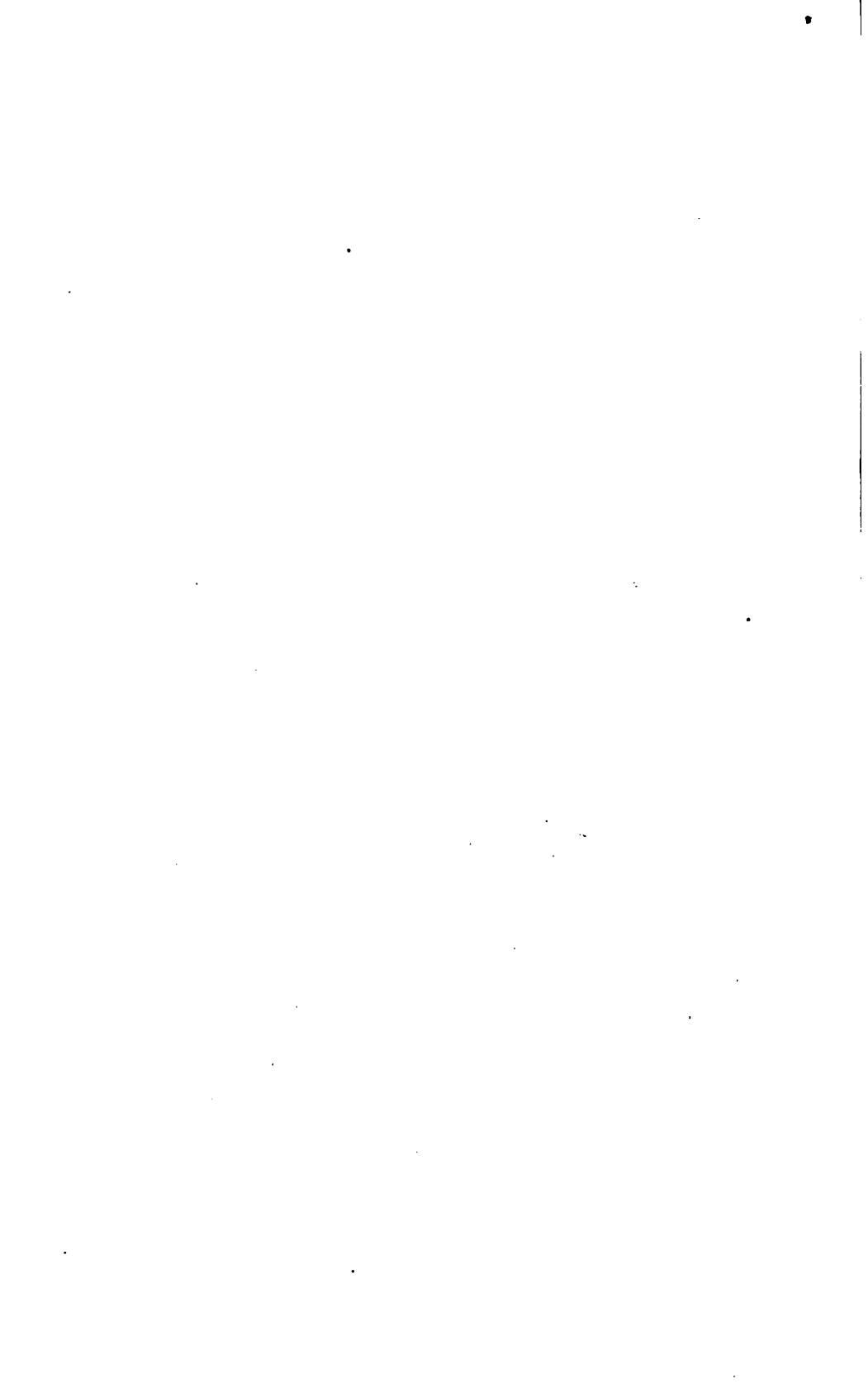
Flora of the forests.—The flora of the forests of Venezuelan Guiana (Guayana) produce an immense variety of vegetation, and flowers are plentiful.

^a Data from Humboldt, Spruce, Dove's map, Grisebach, Klotzsch, Schomburgk, Moritz, Weddell, Doctor Ernst, Baker (Syn. Fil.).



"MORICHE" PALM TREE (*MAURITIA FLEXUOSA*).

(Courtesy of Mr. A. Stockman.)



The vegetation of Guayana is very different near the banks of the numerous rivers by which it is watered.

Bamboos and *uriticacias* of the *Cecropia* species grow there, as well as evergreen shrubs and trees, and the soil is covered with *aroides* and *scitamineous* plants with splendid flowers. The forest slopes to the seashore where it mingles with mangroves, such as *Rhizophora*, *Avicennia*, *Laguncularia*, and *Ficus*. These mangroves form a sort of dyke to the impetus of the waves.

Among the trees of the forest are found some forms of laurel and tamarind of evergreen foliage. Some 60 species of palms with pin-nated leaves are known.

Flora of Guayana.—There exist in Guayana, according to Schomburgk, 2,450 different species of plants, belonging to 132 families and 772 generic classes.

The most plentiful families are the following:

	Clases.	Species.
Leguminous	66	198
Orchids	61	187
Rubiacean	57	108
Ferns	53	103
Compound	21	51
Gramineous	20	59
Palms	19	57
Apocineas	18	52
Euforbean	17	34
Melastomacean	16	72
Acantacean	18	28
Aroidean	12	35
Malpighacean	12	51
Amaranth	10	12
Scrophularian	10	15
Pines	10	20
Cluytian	9	25
Myrtles	9	44

According to Doctor Ernst there must exist 4,000 species of plants in the forests of Guayana, of which 600 belong to cellular plants.

Flora of Maturín.—The flora of Maturín is similar to that of Guayana, and that of the *andine* mountains has been described by Weddell and Moritz as forming the *Gaylussacia buxifolia* and the *befaria glanca*, which are the last species of alpine vegetation in the north-east part of South America.

There are three regions, according to the height, above the sea level.

Flora of the hot region.—The hot region (from the sea level to an altitude of 400 meters) produces the littoral flora composed of *Cakile aequalis*, *Portulaca pilosa*, *Portulaca halimoides*, *Sesuvium portulacastrum*, *Salicornia ambigua*, *Bates martinii*, *Obione cristata*, *Tournefortia guaphalodes*, *Heliotropium inundatum*, *Heliotropium curassavicum*, *Ipomoea pres-capras*, *Phizophora Mangle*, *Capparis amygdalina*, *Hippomane*, *Mamecella*, *Euphorbia buxifolia*, *Suriana mas.*, *Thespesia populnea*, *Corchorus hirsutus*, *Coccoloba uvifera*, *Tephrosia cinerea*, *Languncularia racemosa*, *Conocarpus erectus*, *Bontia daphnoides*, and

Cocos nucifera. The seeds of nearly all these plants maintain their germinating power for a comparatively long time.

The cacao tree, the sugar cane, the coco tree, the banana and cassava trees are the principal agricultural products of this hot region. The plants which grow wild are extremely numerous.

Flora of the temperate region.—The temperate region (400 to 2,200 meters above the sea level) has an average temperature of 17° to 20° C., which allows the growth and cultivation of all the plants of the torrid and temperate zones. Side by side with the banana, sugar cane, coffee, cassava, and cotton trees can be seen corn, any kind of vegetable, wheat and barley, and such fruit trees as *guanabano*, *guavas*, misples, *zapotes*, papayas, oranges, apricots, peaches, quince, and apples. Among the flowers there are roses, dahlias, pinks, myosotis, violets, gladiolus, jessamine, polyanthes, and many other, as gardenias, abutilons, magnolias, thirbergias, bougainvillean, and dracenas.

Plants from distant regions have been perfectly acclimatized, such as *Nasturtium officinale*, *Fragaria vesca*, *Portulaca oleracea*, *Senecio vulgaris*, *Sonchus oleraceus*, *Xanthiuns macarocarpum*, *Meatha vividis*, *Plantago major*, *Chenopodium murale*, and *Typha angustifolia*.

Flora of the cold region.—The cold region (over 2,200 meters altitude) has a special vegetation composed of gramineos plants and lichens, and such as *Siphocampylus microstoma* Hook, *Cardamine chilensis* D. C., *Tagetes pusilla*. At a lesser altitude there are forests with interesting specimens of the rubiaceos (*Cinchona*, *Guettarda*), *laurineos* and *saxifragean* species. The smaller trees belong to the *Gencian*, *Compound*, *Rubeaceos*, *Scrofularean*, *Gesneriacean*, *Ericacian*, *Valerianein*, *Umbelliferan*, *Cariofilean*, *Granuneos*, *Ciperacean* and *Ferns*. Near the snow limit there grow some orchids, as the *Oropedium lindentii* and several species of *Masdevallia*.

There are 44 classes and 399 species of ferns, and 78 classes and 412 species of orchids in Venezuela.

FAUNA.^a

Zoologic region.—The earth is divided into six zoologic regions. The fifth region, the *neotropic*, is subdivided into four provinces. Venezuela belongs to the second province of the fifth zoologic region of the world.

General character of the fauna.—The general character of the fauna is the same in the whole country, subject only to certain modifications due to the situation and nature of the soil. The eastern region of Guayana has the same species of animals as the northern part of Brazil. Animal life on the western ranges is similar to that of Colombia.

^a Data from Doctor Sclater, Bush, Owen, Van Beneden, Cuvier and Valenciennes, Weyenbergh, E. von Martens, Doctor Ernst.

The fauna of the *llanos* (plains) differs from that of the coast range, and on the islands along the coast the fauna is rudimentary.

Mammalia.—There are three orders of mammalia, the representatives of which are not very well known in the Venezuelan fauna, viz: Monkeys, bats, and rodents.

Monkeys.—Twenty different species of *quadrumanes* belonging to the following eleven classes: *Mycetes*, *Lagothrix*, *Atele*, *Cebus*, *Pithecia*, *Brachynos*, *Nyctipithecus*, *Callithrix*, *Hapale*, and *Oedipus*.

Rodents.—There are twelve known classes of rodents, as follows: *Mus musculus* L., *Mus decumanus* Pall., *Cercolabes prehensilis* Brdt., *Cavia Aperea* L., *Hydrochaerus capybara* Exl., *Coclongenys paca* Wagn., *Dasyprocta aguti* Wagn., *Myopotamsis coypus* Geoffr., *Loncheres crisata* Wart., *Echimys cayen.* Desm., *Lepus brasiliensis* L., and many other species of field and forest mice.

Carnivorous.—The representatives of this order of animals belong to the four families of felines, canines, martens, and bears. Of the first family seven species are well known in Venezuela, viz: *Felis concolor* L., *F. pardalis* L., *F. onca* L., *F. mitis* Cuv., *F. tigrina* Schreb., *F. yaguarurdi* Desm., *F. macrura* Pr. Max.

The canines are represented by the species of *Canis Azaræ* Rengg, and it is not known whether the dogs of the mountain tribes of Indians are of European origin.

The martens have several representatives, among which are the *Galictis vittata* Bell and the *Galictis barbara* Wag. In the rivers of the plains there are found the *Lutra brasiliensis* Gray and the long-tailed *Lutra pteronura*. The most singular animal of this family is the *Mephitis (mapurite)*.

There is but one species of bear in the western range called *Ursus ornatus* Cuv., and in other parts of the country are to be found the *Ursus nasutus* Sclat. and *Cercoleptes candivolulus* Illig. There are only fossil remains of the *Mastodon andium* Cuv.

Pachiderms.—Ruminants and even-toed pachiderms are represented by five species—two of *Dicotyle torquatus* Cud. and *labiatus* and two of *Cervus rufus* Ill. and *simplicornis*. To this order belong swine, bovines, ovines, and goats.

Cloven-footed and *single-hoofed* pachiderms are represented by the horse, imported by the Spaniards at the beginning of the sixteenth century, which has now attained a semiwild state on the plains, the ass of the same origin, and their hybrid product, the mule, but the tapir, *Tapirus Amer.* L., lives principally in the forests of the Orinoco.

Cetacea.—Several cetacea visit the coast of Venezuela, and a species of dolphin (*Inia boliv.* d'Orb.) exists in the Orinoco and Casiquiare. The *Manatus amer.* Desm. is to be found along the coast from the Orinoco delta to the Gulf of Maracaibo. The *Delphinus delphis* L. and the *Catodon macrocephalus* Gray exists in abundance in the Caribbean Sea.

Marsupialia.—The most imperfect mammalia are three species of *marsupialia*, two of the genus *Didelphys*, and an aquatic variety, the *Chirometes variegatus*.

Edentate.—This order of mammals is represented by the *Bradypus tridactylus*, *Dasyurus novemcinctus*, *Myrmecophaga jubata* and *Acoelptes candivolutus*.

BIRDS.^a

There are four different ornithological districts in Venezuela, in which live 315 families and 566 species of birds. The birds of prey, as the Condor, live only on the highest mountain peaks. Flamingoes of the same species are found on certain islands along the coast and on the banks of the lagoons of the plains.

Many birds are periodical, as the swallows and aquatic birds of the *llanos*, and migrate during the dry season.

Birds of prey.—There are 3 species of this family.

Hawks.—Thirty-two diurnal and 6 meturnal rapacious species.

Of the grazing order of birds there are 7 families and 28 species.

Tisirostral (having the bill cleft beyond the horny part).—Of this section there exist the following families: *Caprimulgidae*, 5 species; *Hirundinidae* (swallows), 3 species; *Momotidae*, 1 specie; *Trogonidae*, 7 species; *Buconidae*, 6 species; *Alcedinidae*, 3 species; *Galbulidae*, 3 species.

Tenuirostral (thin-billed, such as humming birds).—Of this section there exist 4 families and 98 species, as follows: *Cerebidae*, 60 species; *Anabatidae*, 28 species; *Troglodites*, 10 species.

Dentirostral (tooth-billed).—This section is represented by 10 families and 123 species, thus: *Paridae*, 1 specie; *Silvicolidae*, 13 species; *Motacilidae*, 2 species; *Turdidae*, 11 species; *Cinchidae*, 1 specie; *Fernicaridae*, 16 species; *Tiranidae*, 50 species; *Ampelidae*, 1 specie; *Contingidae*, 24 species; and *Virconidae*, 4 species.

Cornirostral.—Forty-six families, 111 species, thus: *Crows*, 3 families, 6 species; *Icteridae*, 10 families, 21 species; *Taragrides*, 18 families, 59 species; *Frugilidae*, 14 families, 24 species; *Ostotocomidæ*, 1 family, 1 specie.

Climbing birds.—Twenty-five families and 55 species, thus: *Tucans*, 3 families, 8 species; *Parrots*, 6 families, 23 species; *Peckers*, 11 families, 16 species, and *Cuckoos*, 5 families and 55 species.

Pigeons.—Six families and 8 species.

Gallinaceæ.—Seven families and 1 specie.

Struthious.—Two families and 7 species.

Grallidae.—Thirty-three families and 51 species.

Aquatic.—Fifteen families and 22 species.

^a Gray, L'etaud.

FISHES.

The fishes are represented by 48 species, of which 22 are of the ossean or bony families, 5 of the *cartilaginous*, the last two are of the sea-water, and 21 of the river specimens.

REPTILES.

Turtles.—This order is represented by the sea and sweet-water turtles, by the *Testudo tabulata*, *Podocnemys trasca*, *Cinosternumscorpiodes*, and *Chelys fimbriata*.

Crocodiles.—There are 11 species of this order of lizards.

Serpents.—Are represented by 29 different families.

Frogs.—The family of the batrachian is represented by 4 species.

MOLLUSCS.

There are 36 families and 132 species of molluscs. Three families and 6 species live in sea water, such as the pearl oyster and the common oyster, and 32 families and 126 species are sweetwater specimens.

INSECTS.

Coleoptera.—There are 8 families of beetles.

Orthoptera.^a—This order of insects is represented by 6 families.

Neuroptera.—This order of insects is represented by 2 families and various species.

Hymenoptera.—The membrane-winged order of insects consists of 23 families.

Lepidoptera.—The insects whose wings are covered with overlapping scales are represented by 14 families.

Hemiptera.—Four families of this order are found.

Rhipiptera.—There are 3 families of this order.

Diptera.—There are 7 families of this order.

Parasites.—There are 7 families of this order.

Centipedes.—There are 2 families of this order.

Spiders.—There are 9 families of this order.

Crustacea.^b—There are 4 families of this order.

Annelida.—There are 5 families of this order.

Zoöphytes.—There are 4 families of this order.

ETHNOGRAPHY.^c

Ethnogenic groups.—When Venezuela was discovered it was inhabited by more than 150 ethnogenic groups of aborigines, who spoke 11 languages and 150 dialects.

^a Wilkes.

^b Müller, Hildebrand, Delphino.

^c Humboldt, Codazzi, Balbi, Schomburgk, Wallace, A. Rojas, Landaeta-Rosales.

Heroic Caciques.—The history of the Spanish conquest is synthesized in the names of the following five heroic Indian chiefs (called *Caciques*), namely: *Guaicaipuro*, *Paramaconi*, *Sorocaima*, *Tamanaco*, and *Guaricurión*.

Regions inhabited by aborigines.—Hereunder is given a list of the Indian tribes and the regions they inhabited when Venezuela was discovered. The recent territorial division has been adopted to give an accurate idea of the primitive settlements:

In Apure: Achaguas, Airicos, Atisucaimas, Betolles, Canicamares, Cumayos, Chiricoas, Choques, Guacuaros, Guayupes, Otomacos, Situfas, and Tovores.

In Aragua: Ajaguas, Araguas, Meregotes, Mucurías.

In Barcelona: Cachaimas, Cachicamos, Caimas, Cumanagotos, Chacachacares, Chacacuanes, Characuases, Guaribes, Palenques, Tumuzas.

In Barquisimeto: Ajaguas, Coyones, Cuivas, Gallones, Guaricos, Guaroes; Guedubais, Güeros, Jirajaras, Omocaros, Taparitos, Tones, Tocuyos, Yanaconas, Yajures.

In Bolívar: Arbacos, Caracas, Charagotos, Chavavaros, Gándules, Mariches, Mayas, Meregotes, Paracotos, Quiriquires, Taramainas, Tamanacos, Tarmas, Teques, Tumuzas.

In Carabobo and Cojedes: Nirvas, Tacariguas.

In Cumana: Araucas, Cacheimes, Cumanagotos, Chacopatas, Chaimas, Guaiqueríes, Iparagotos, Olleros, Pariagotos, Pitagotazos, Tapacuare, Uriáparis.

In Falcón and Coro: Caiquetías, Chitas, Choques, Guaipis, Guarauños, Jirajaras, Jascaneyes, Piracaras, Piribanes, Topueros.

In El Guárico: Amaibos, Atapaimes, Caracicanas, Chirigas, Guamas, Guaribes, Güires, Mapoyes, Orochaimas, Tiznados.

In Guayana: Acabáis, Axherecotías, Amoisanas, Araucas, Arecunas, Ariguas, Arinagotas, Armacotas, Arivianos, Asanesis, Atures, Avanes, Avarigotos, Avimaris, Averianos, Ayanos, Banivas, Barias, Barinagotos, Berapaquinabis, Cabres, Cabríos, Cadupinapos, Caracicanos, Caribes, Carinacos, Caruzanas, Caveros, Ciaperos, Civitenis, Deesanas, Ecuánabis, Guacaros, Guaharibos, Guahibos, Guaicas, Guaipunabis, Guaimaos, Guamos, Guanimaneses, Guaraúños, Guayanos, Güirigüiripas, Hiripiripas, Macos, Nacuenes, Maipures, Maguacos, Maguetanos, Mapoyes, Manosas, Marepiranos, Maretevitano, Mariquitares, Marononís, Muchuchíes, Mucurus, Muisacas, Ojes, Omeguas, Otomacos, Pacibis, Pairenes, Panares, Pandacotos, Parecas, Parenés, Pariagotos, Piarocas, Pumabos, Puipitines, Quariquenas, Quevacú, Quiríscanas, Salivas, Tahagomas, Taparitos, Ucanabais, Uriáparis, Varacas, Vares, Vayamares, Vochearíos, Yaruros, Yocuras.

In Maturín: Guaraúños, Cuneguaros, Tuapocas.

In Mérida: Aricaguas, Aviamos, Bailadores, Chamas, Escagüelles, Escoques, Iquinos, Macobas, Miyuses, Mombunes, Mucuchíes, Mucu-

cunches, Mucurubás, Quinos, Tabayes, Tapainos, Tostos, Tricaguas, Yancaguas.

In Portuguesa and Zamora: Amaibas, Atures, Baraures, Barrancas, Cúcaros, Curaguas, Cherechirenas, Dásaros, Duriguas, Güeros, Tobores, Tucuriguas.

In El Tachira: Was included in Mérida.

In Trujillo: Cuicas, Escuques, Timotes, Tostos.

In El Yaracuy: Jirajaras, Nirvas.

In El Zulia: Alcoholados, Atilas, Babures, Caratas, Cocinas, Cocine tas, Motilones, Onotos, Quiriquires, Ravichás, Sabriles, Tamanares, Toas, Zapaaras.

In the Territory of Goajira: In 1873 there existed 45 tribes.

The tribes of Apure, Aragua, Barcelona, Barquisimeto, Bolivar, Coro, Cumaná, Carabobo, Cojedes, Guárico, Maturín, Mérida, Portuguesa, Táchira, Trujillo, Yaracuy, Zamora, and Zulia were extinguished by war, the conquest, and because of having mixed with the general population. There are still some Indians in Apure, Barcelona, and Maturín, and the tribes of Guayana and the Goagira are the only pure types in existence now.

NATIVE RACES.

[By Dr. J. HAMPDEN PORTER.]

Since there is no doubt that a country's geographical position and peculiar natural features—its coast line, rainfall, soil, temperature, spontaneous vegetable growths and indigenous animal species, with such river systems or mountain ranges as it may contain—will determine social development among primitive men who reside there, some description of these phenomena displayed in different regions has been prefixed to each chapter upon native races occupying South America. Complete physiographic details, however, are not required for an understanding of those coercive influences which environments exert over mankind while natural selection's direct action remains almost unmodified by artificial devices and successive adjustments. It was in connection with so-called aborigines distributed through Venezuela that Humboldt and Bonplan said, "The accidents of climate and configuration are felt in all their force only among a race of men who, endowed with a happy disposition of the mental faculties, receive some exterior impulse."^a No trace indicating extraneous aid has been discovered here, unless those rock carvings, which remain, point to an occupation by strangers who had awakened to self consciousness and attempted some record of existing impressions or past events. Assuming the presence of prehistoric residents who either degenerated or passed away, European invaders were, so far

^aTravels. London, 1821, vol. v., p. 500.

as known, these Indians' sole instructors, and trans-Atlantic civilization failed to be absorbed by the "American man" wherever an effort toward implanting it was made. His cultures—widely separated in space, developed by different stocks, unequally evolved, culminating under the action of surroundings altogether dissimilar—must have had this common likeness, namely, they began where nature aided those initial advances that enabled communities possessing inherent powers to conquer difficulties presented by habitats which subsequently became permanent residences and the sites of all future accomplishments.

Whenever from any cause such preliminary training could not take place, enviroing circumstances and an adventitious mingling of blood strains determined human destinies on this continent. Pure savages unfavorably placed, sometimes made enough progress to differentiate tribes of the same family from one another; but, as a rule, they merely established an unstable equilibrium with nature that was easily and frequently overthrown, or branches of main stocks withered and fell away. To adopt momentarily an incorrect and obsolete phraseology, whole tribes, groups, and "nations" have disappeared because adverse situations rendered them irremediably unfit.

Venezuela contained no area where a trophic center was formed; no district sufficiently extensive and in every way adjusted to the needs of unevolved mankind, where natives drew together within its limits, abandoned nomadic habits, inaugurated an artificial basis for support, and so conformed with the first requirements upon which ulterior improvement is founded everywhere. Col. A. Codazzi, of whom it was said in a somewhat exaggerated way by J. Mudie Spence^a that he "did all whichever has been done" for Venezuelan geography, divided this country with reference to the mean temperatures prevailing in different sections.^b These "cold, temperate, and hot" zones correspond to more important physical features presented by regions that other observers characterize as "forested, grazing, and agricultural" provinces. Ultimately thermal contrasts, with all they imply as controlling factors of climatic phenomena or spontaneous production, here depend entirely upon elevation. The mountain chains run irregularly through areas which are wholly equatorial, and unequal upheaval alone effects striking differences between territories that would otherwise be correspondingly fitted for human habitation. Both the Sierra Madre de Parima and Maritime Andes consist of parallel ridges inclosing vales or table-lands which are dissimilar in each case, and also separate spaces without uniformity on either side, while those highlands lying west of the coast range present scarcely any trace of symmetrical development. These discordant surface arrangements would operate toward producing dissimilarities among indigenes whose unprepared

^aThe Land of Bolivar. London, 1878.

^bResumen de la Geografia de Venezuela. Paris, 1844.



GROUP OF CARIBBEAN INDIANS.

(Courtesy of Mr. M. I. Arestigueta, Ciudad Bolívar.)

state rendered them almost passive to external conditions, and similarly, tribes placed within great forest belts, or in so far as the Llanos were ever peopled by pure Indians, those vast treeless expanses of undulating plains, must likewise have made a struggle for life and its concomitant effects upon regional communities, altogether different in its character and consequences.

There was enough space within the confines of Venezuela for many races, since it is larger than France, Germany, and the Netherlands combined, yet we have no positive knowledge of more than two distinct native families; while, notwithstanding that such local diversities as have been referred to were naturally engendered through divergent physiographic action, their differentiations only went to a limited extent, and aboriginal aggregates in respect of characteristics acquired through intercourse with special environments might properly be divided into highlanders, and lowland populations occupying the Orinoco's hydrographic basin. Unfortunately for ethnological knowledge, however, a large part of these grand divisions remains unexplored. Little has been done by scientific observers, says Spence, toward making known regions which lie beyond ordinary lines of travel, and Élie Reclus^a remarks that the terra incognita of this country is much more extensive than those portions we are acquainted with. These unvisited tracts have been pointed out by Desiré Pector,^b and he records the names of numerous groups who occupy them; but tribal titles amount to nothing without supplementary information concerning family, definite situation, social status, etc., and no such data are at present procurable. They stand unidentified and unknown, like that long list of Venezuelan tribes given in Appendix No. 1 to Fray Jacinto de Carvajal's explorations along the Apure,^c and which, apart from a doubtful Carib class, are not referred by its compiler to any particular stocks.

Proportionally to its area this country contains a large amount of cultivable land, although the original inhabitants made few improvements in agriculture and never supported themselves by tillage. They were not sufficiently advanced to overcome any obstacles which those diversifications of surface previously noted placed in their way. Among these deterrent conditions also many existed that savages found insuperable, and could never have surmounted. The mighty woodlands of upper South America clothed large territories otherwise available for farming purposes. Their overwhelming growths defied efforts at affecting clearings, while since the men who constantly attempted it were constitutionally incapable of persistent endeavor, their intermittent enterprises utterly failed, and dense jungles imme-

^a The Earth and its Inhabitants. N. Y., 1894

^b Notes sur l'Américanisme. Paris, 1900.

^c Relación del descubrimiento del Río Apure. Leon, 1892.

diately obliterating all traces of human endeavor. Forests scattered Indian groups, stifled progress at its birth, extinguished whatever latent faculty may have inhered in the peoples they drove to river banks as nomadic bands of savage fishermen whose only fields were open, natural glades.

In numerous instances upland valleys proved fertile, and to some extent had been always cultivated, but very frequently their soil was nearly barren. The adjacent mountains stood "in ruins," as John Ball expresses a state produced by erosion,^a and detritus of gneiss, clay-slate, mica, or chlorite schists, etc., spread over neighboring vales and campaign tracts, rendering them equally unproductive, with riverine savannas sometimes sterilized by granitic sand washed down from heights. Here and there desert spaces dotted the llanos, but mold overlay its clayey beds, enriched with humus derived from decaying shrubs or grasses during an incalculable period; while less deep layers similarly composed cover those isolated accumulations of marl and sand called mesas. Thus far, however, investigation has revealed nothing which indicates the presence of settled native communities. There are no vestiges suggesting a prehistoric culture excelling that now prevalent among wild tribes bordering upon these plains, and the presumption is that they have lain desolate at all times, although more unpromising habitats supported permanent populations in America or elsewhere.

The anthropological survey of Venezuela brings its biological conditions into prominence at once because, in case physical states were below par, certain social results would follow as matters of course—it is a baseless fancy that men's minds at any developmental stage get the better of bodily disability. Comparing tribes with those belonging to contiguous lands, how far did this country favor primitive human beings almost wholly incapable of protecting themselves against any malign influences? Without question it was exempt from graver forms of epidemic disease. Its temperate zones were decidedly salubrious, and the common testimony given by earlier and later travelers concedes health, vigor, muscular strength, longevity to these indigenes at large.

Possibly long-settled populations in all provinces may have been relatively well, strong, and fit. Acclimation does much toward promoting general sanitation. Special diets produce external traits which conceal real physical qualities quite effectually. Briefly, pestilence nowhere destroys nearly so many lives as everyday and universal disorders of which patients die or get well principally according to existent constitutional states that none but specially trained observers can detect. Notwithstanding an exceptionally brisk atmospheric circulation due to the trade wind, caldereto or land breeze, and those air

^a Notes of a Naturalist in South America. London, 1887.

currents that J. B. J. D. Boussingault^a noted in connection with interior waters, ailments from which protracted residence only gives a partial immunity prevail to some extent. Pulmonary complaints, intestinal seizures, malarial fevers, necessarily afflict all regions where changes of temperature are extreme, alimentation is complete or positively bad, and such rivers as the Orinoco, Negro, Caura, Meta, Apure overflow periodically. That high death rate recorded by Colonels James Hackett^b and G. Hippiusley^c among foreign troops during the war of independence was, however, evidently occasioned by faulty equipment and wretched supply, fully as much as through morbid climatic action. The general healthfulness of Venezuela may be admitted, says John Hawkshaw;^d although no satisfactory explanation is possible of those ameliorating circumstances that rendered pathogenetic agents less virulent there than in countries touching its eastern, western, and southern borders. Public hygiene among natives dwelling here was seriously affected by other causes of illness, exhaustion, and ultimate extinction; but a review of morbid influences which wrought disastrously here can only be made intelligible by previously describing modes and appliances of life, the food supply nature afforded, together with social organizations universally presiding over man's appropriation or use of such materials as he employs in order to live.

Certain invariable truths apply to everything subsequently said upon the subjects stated above. (1) Human organisms, consisting of elements that waste with functional activity and require constant renewal, if physical or mental integrity are preserved, the value attaching to any country's indigenous food stores, are less dependent upon multiplicity in edible species among its fauna and flora than on their ability to subserve those ends demanded by normal nutrition. (2) Staples, properly so called, when belonging to the vegetable kingdom, are nowhere spontaneously produced, either in such forms or amounts as would supply populations with normal nourishment. (3) Irrespectively of other requisites, quantity plays a minor part in alimentation, and it by no means follows that men are adequately fed because their stomachs have been filled. Masses may be slowly starved into chronic enfeeblements of mind or body, become degenerate, and verge upon extinction, without being cut off from provisions. (4) Primitive societies never sensibly improve or increase their means of support and can not employ what they possess to advantage. A savage, however well provided he appears, is always underfed, and in the same degree he must be incapacitated.

With reference to the geographical distribution of plants and

^a *Viajes científicos*. Paris, 1849.

^b *Narrative*. London, 1818.

^c *Expedition to the Orinoco and Apure*. London, 1819.

^d *Reminiscences of South America*. London, 1888.

animals, those subdivisions among both classes upon whose existence man's life and all his works depend, are alike in Venezuela, Guiana, Amazonas, and the northern Andean lowlands. This corresponds with physiographic likeness between these equatorial regions pointed out by Deniker,^a and taken together they account for that essential sameness in modes of living or cultural developments prevailing among aboriginal communities scattered over the territories specified. Nearly identical means and methods of subsistence, with very similar terrestrial surroundings, left only race inheritance or accidental comminglings among alien groups to originate variations. None of these provinces were great natural game preserves; they did not harbor those animals most useful to mankind, while the potato or maize having their homes elsewhere, and it being impossible for such savages to introduce them effectively, native inhabitants had no highly nutritious vegetables except bananas.

In Venezuela, however, none suffered for food otherwise than as savages always entail periodical famines upon themselves. Maguey, says Spence, grows on all its soils, and in some instances outside of this country the varied products yielded by that plant have alone gone far toward supporting American Indians. But tribes here were not subjected to the same deprivations as beset Arizona Apaches, for example, and utilized its leaves, fibers, or bulbs much less thoroughly. They possessed edibles derived from mimosa, desmanthus, and acacia ganera; there was an unlimited supply of calabashes or palms. Candelas, camarrubas, cupanas, purpuras, grow in profusion, while otherwise unproductive spaces, described by Carl Sachs,^b contained *mauricia flexuosa*, called "the tree of life." Spence's list of succulent roots with high nitrogen determinations, apio, capachos, yucca, lairenes, mapuey, etc.; the multitudinous fruits mentioned by Manuel Llorente Vasquez,^c and to whose numbers Carvajal, while adding considerably, remarks that most of them are sweet and therefore readily converted into intoxicating drinks through fermentation, might easily be enlarged if it were desirable to do more than show how rich the Venezuelan flora is in this class of uncultivated nutritives. As was said, plenty reigns throughout all districts now inhabited or formerly occupied by wild tribes, but abundance and sufficiency have not convertible significations where eatables are concerned. To repeat statements made in a previous chapter,^d nutrition underlies that entire series of activities called life. Food is the primary and most universal necessity among all living beings. Throughout nature differentiations of every kind mainly subserve means for procuring it. In the beginning societies

^a Les Races et les Peuples de la Terre. Paris, 1900.

^b Aus den Llanos. Leipzig, 1879.

^c Cuadros Americanos. Madrid, 1891.

^d United States of Brazil, p. 47. Washington, D. C., 1901.

take shape according to its supply, and they never escape from this controlling influence. Want of sustenance drove mankind into those changes of place where their transformations occurred, and if it be permissible to particularize one factor as having predominantly contributed toward making human aggregates what they are, food comes first. There is little exaggeration in saying that culture history began with hunger. Those aborigines residing here peopled a land whose spontaneous bounty kept them alive at the cost of little exertion. Nothing less strenuous than an alternative between starvation and tillage could have made these Indians cultivate those valuable staples which merely existed among them, therefore no decisive attempt at establishing an artificial basis of support ever took place, and consequently they stagnated without exception in savagery. Nature, as she always does, exacted the penalty for incompetency, however it may have been brought about, and here it was the inevitable issue of biological conditions. Vegetable substances of the kinds employed and animal nutritives presently to be mentioned, did not fulfill physiological requirements; they neither permitted life to attain higher grades, nor preserved a permanent equilibrium in those vital functions upon whose normal relations prosperity everywhere depends.

There was no scarcity of flesh foods in Venezuela. Yet as always happens wherever domesticated animals are absent, and large gregarious species do not range, meat, which besides satisfying appetite would also make muscle and store energy, could never be procured with ease or regularity. Varying fish-runs, bird-flights, turtle migrations, with the wanderings of marine or terrestrial vertebrates, involved periods of scarcity (not to be recovered from by subsequent gorgings) such as H. W. Bates observed among men similarly situated on the Amazons,^a and Karl von den Steinen throughout central Brazil.^b Aliments of both these classes—chemically inferior, spasmodically supplied, and badly prepared—when continuously furnished to populations who can not improve their fare, will act with the inevitability of fate, and any so-called anthropological description which ignores those primary conditions that incapacitated families, stultified whatsoever innate endowments they may have possessed, kept communities apart, forced tribes into disruption, and produced constitutional states, preventing recovery from such shocks as constantly assail undeveloped masses, must fall short of its most important purpose. The power to effect anything primitive men have ever accomplished comes through inheritance, it is strictly controlled by surroundings, and what has been said concerning efficient causes for general failure or decay, can not be more fully illustrated than in case of those Venezuelan aborigenes who come under consideration.

^aThe Naturalist on the Amazons. London, 1876.

^bUnter den Naturvölken Zentral-Braziliens. Berlin, 1894.

Not long ago—as time is counted in relation to human history—indigenes of this country were comparatively numerous, and making all due allowances for overestimates by sixteenth or seventeenth century chroniclers, it seems certain that within recorded periods there has been a marked oscillation of numbers and also condition among those aggregates peopling northern or southeastern uplands, together with all champaign districts. During most of that time, between Spanish invasion and our own era, dispersion, massacre, exhaustion from overwork, imported disease, alcohol, and despair, thinned out Gumilla's "many nations," until it seemed as if their extinction were at hand. Now, however, there are 66,000 unmixed Indians whose independence is not likely to be interfered with; 326,000 full-blooded natives, and 240,000 that, having abandoned wandering or semi-nomadic lives, support themselves through tillage. Other American aborigenes have done as much, even without such advantages as these reorganized Barré, Carib, and Arawak branches from savage stocks enjoy—namely, cereals developed to the full extent of their nutritive capabilities, domesticated animals, and improved appliances which make a struggle for existence much less arduous than formerly. What results may finally ensue no one can foresee. Extraneous aid has thus far never given Americans an impetus that would propagate itself. They are seemingly devoid of that "happy constitution of the mental faculties" Humboldt specified as necessary for continued progress. No true civilization has ever arisen on this continent, and its tribes, wherever placed have stopped short at barbarism. Up to this time they have not really assimilated higher cultures, either amicably proffered for acceptance, or indoctrinated by force.

A remark connected with native populations en masse, quite properly introduces what can be said concerning ethnic groups in Venezuela and the general distribution of resident families. This statement relates to an opinion that aborigenes here were partially or wholly united during some indefinite era of antiquity. J. Deniker^a, for example, brings together eastern Caribs, Arawaks, Maypures, with Miranhas and Panos on the west—all these lying to a considerable extent outside the land whose peoples are now discussed—and although marked contrasts exist between respective culture systems, habits of life (or it might be added physical traits) among those aggregates, he includes them all in one branch of a theoretical Amazonian-Guiana race called distinctively South American, looking upon the widely dissevered groups represented here as blood relations. Perhaps their directly post-Pleistocene ancestors were kinsmen, but that has little to do with those families we know about and which, from differentiations wrought through immemorial ages, are at present very unlike.

^a *Les Races et les Peuples de la Terre.* Paris, 1900.

Humboldt and Bonplan^a give over a thousand square leagues lying between the Orinoco, Cassiquiare, Atabapo, and Rio Negro to communities forming a Tamanac race which can not be identified, while Tommaso Caivano^b declares Venezuela's primitive inhabitants formed one great agglomeration of kindred societies.

These hypothetical races, subraces, and grand groups indicated by Retzius, Deniker, Siamiradski, or Caivano are unsustainable; unfortunately, opinions upon known families, with a majority of tribes occupying this ethnological province, remain in an exemplary state of confusion, uncertainty, and conflict. Taking the classification made by Von den Steinen, Adam, Ehrenreich as a starting point, we find that two out of those four divisions (Cariban, Tupi-Guaranian, Arawakan, and Gesan) into which they separate Brazilian Indians, are also the most prominent aggregates settled here. If a family means anything, however, it implies that its members resemble each other in characteristic peculiarities and differ from offshoots belonging to other stocks. That is true of Venezuelan Caribs or Arawaks; yet A. de Quatrefages^c ignores these systematic arrangements and all data on which they rest by asserting that the Cariban groups of Brazil, Guiana, this country whose native population is being considered, together with these same aborigines in their West Indian habitats, are really Guaranians.

Nothing can be gained by multiplying those instances of radical disagreement that beset ethnological literature; but tribes who have been observed during four centuries retain special names, inhabit ascertained localities, present distinctive mental or physical characters, and exhibit sociological differences which may be described without reference to questions of origin that can not be settled by any incontrovertible evidence. These Venezuelans are not all Arawakan or Cariban societies. Muyscan immigrants inhabit the Merida highlands, and similarly long-skulled Warrans from Guiana—men of a marked proto-European type—lead semiamphibious lives on the middle Orinoco and its delta. The former shaped those rude stone idols, neolithic implements, and antique pottery of which counterparts abounded all over Colombian plateaus; but rock cuttings depicting men, or the snake symbol, innumerable unintelligible carvings upon river cliffs and Caracas bone caves explored by Doctor Marciano,^d as also in Cerro de los Muertos and Cerro de Luna caverns; besides sepulchral mounds corresponding to Old World barrows, have been assigned by archaeologists to some unknown people.

Carl Sachs (Aus den Llanos) found Guamos and Otomacos of doubtful

^a Travels, vol. 4, pt. 1. London, 1825.

^b Il Venezuela. Milan. 1897.

^c Histoire Générale des Races Humaines. Paris, 1889.

^d L'Ethnographie précolombienne du Venezuela. Paris, 1889.

extraction on the southern plains. There are Panos who, as identified by R. de la Grasserie,^a migrated from Andine lowlands; Guayanos, after whom "the Large, Rich, and Bewtifull Empire of Guiana"—so called by Sir Walter Raleigh—was named; dwarfish Ayamanes, not taller than Central African Akkas or Obongoes, and Kamurika bands, says J. Chaffangon,^b inextricably mixed. Besides these, and many other alien tribes and indistinguishable offshoots from various stocks whom it is unnecessary to catalogue, there are also nondescript Miranhas (vagabonds), with "White Indians," Guaicas, Guainares, Poignares, etc., whose lighter tint Keane regards as a result of foreign crossing, though Réclus adds climate and food as necessary adjuncts. Humboldt, however, states that they live under the same climatic influences as their darker neighbors, "subsist on the same aliment," and, furthermore, "it would be impossible to take them for a mixed race."

An incongruity like this, which Hamy and others consider separative in its character, is more than equaled by bodily contrasts existing between members of the same families. "Physically," Keane remarks, "Arawaks differ from Caribs scarcely, if at all, more than their Amazonian and Guiana sections differ from each other." But marked unlikenesses display themselves within the limits of both groups. Brazilian Caribs—those on the upper Xingu, for example, with Bakairi and Nahugua tribes also, have that short skull inherited from their remote proto-Mongol ancestors who invaded America. This cranial type likewise prevails among Cariban, Macusé, Kalinas, or Galibi, in English, Dutch, and French Guiana, as it does here, where Vayamaras, Aracunas, and Caripe communities are distinctively brachycephalic. Roundheadedness, however, fades away into subdolichocephaly and mesatocephalism throughout the whole geographical range mentioned. Caribs live there who, besides wanting a Mongoloid skull, have lighter or darker complexions, greater or less average height, robustness, vigor, and general faculty. That old Venezuelan Chaima group, now represented by Makirifare and Motilone societies, extending from east to west, scarcely bore any family resemblance to smaller, "fair-skinned" (*clair de peau*, says Deniker), congeners of the West Indies, who harried native settlements there perpetually, kept at war with Spanish, French, and English colonies for generations, and were nearly exterminated ultimately but never conquered.

The same corporeal variations appear among widely distributed Arawaks, although in psychic constitution these indigenes appear to have been altogether unlike those before-mentioned savages whose name was everywhere associated with spoliation, massacre, and can-

^a Cong. International Américanister. Berlin, 1888.

^b L'Orénoque et le Caura. Paris, 1889.

nibalism. On account of their usual situation near implacable enemies, more or less fighting was unavoidable; moreover, being urged by social evolution and mental development into acts which civilized men regard as criminal, they no doubt aggressed against weaker communities, whether of kindred strains or otherwise; but commonly this group throughout historic times gained a reputation for quietness and an inclination toward peaceful occupations. Both the families described exhibited an equal incapacity for improvement; neither emerged from savagery; each originated or acquired elements of culture so essentially similar in all anthropological particulars, that such trifling dissimilarities as are displayed by specimens of like designs, manufactures, or general habitudes tell us nothing about any differential traits which can be attributed to these aggregates separately.

As has been said, Arawakans were not the same everywhere any more than Caribs. Everard F im Thurn designates them as the most stunted natives of Guiana.^a Those inhabiting eastern Haiti and Porto Rico formed a distinct subvariety (Deniker). Cuban aborigines belonging to this family are hyperbrachycephalous; yet, on the mainland their blood relations sometimes incline to an opposite type. So with bodily conformation and mental organization at large, they present quite visible unlikenesses in different regions, where peoples gradually becoming Americanized en bloc still show characteristics inherited from utterly disunited parent stocks, and present modifications due to influences exerted by many environments. Primitive organic plasticity, acted upon by frequent change of place, with multiplied intermixtures, will account for that variability which has been noticed among tribes derived from one source.

Before leaving two acknowledged families to review tribes whose genealogies can not be established and who are only recognizable as communities bearing tribal names connected with certain places, some brief notice of West Indian Arawaks and Caribs is demanded for completeness' sake. These former natives have been placed first because they were probably true aborigines in both Greater and Lesser Antilles, as well as the Bahama Islands. At all events no known Indians preceded them, and as their villages were scattered over this whole archipelago it is likely that emigration from Venezuela set in at an early period. Taking into consideration the dispersed and completely unorganized condition of those Indians while occupying continental abodes, knowing the distances traversed, their inefficient means for transportation by water, and how impossible it would have been for large numbers to gather before starting or support themselves after they had arrived, the gradual peopling of island sites during a long period is a foregone conclusion. Moreover, early visitors all describe small, scattered settlements; no concentration

^aProceedings of the Royal Geographical Society, Vol. II, p. 465. London, 1880

anywhere, and uniform states of savagery. These bands—primitive gentes, no doubt, with the system of land tenure peculiar to this social structure, and representing its inherent disabilities—could not live in masses. Their environments kept them apart; they were prevented from combining by insufficient supplies, and consequently stood still in a phase of development where such modifications in surroundings as might under other circumstances have been made became altogether impracticable. These insular habitats contained no large game, and but a limited number of edible land animals. Most were mountainous in the interior; streams generally reached no considerable size, many failed during rainless intervals, and permanent reservoirs of every kind only existed on a small scale. Hence resident communities lived perforce on coasts, where fishes and other sea foods could be procured, their numbers being comparatively few even before Carib followed by European invasion drove multitudes inland, where they dwindled and failed rapidly. It was not only massacre, an intolerable servitude, acquired vice and introduced disease, or persecution of any sort that exterminated island Arawaks. They also faded away under natural conditions inimical to life and which these people had no power to improve.

Ethnologists, through proofs satisfactory to themselves, have discovered that Cariban occupation of the West Indies fully set in about two hundred years before Columbus arrived. However this may be, and an obvious inference from facts already given is that such a date violates all probabilities, they had certainly gone far toward extirpating Arawakan settlers when Spanish posts were first established and before French adventurers founded their Guadeloupe, St. Christopher, Martinique, or other colonies. These Cibuneys, Gamatabeis, Gangules, etc., primarily occupied shore lines, where tribal units (gentes) lived as much together as circumstances—that is to say, the amount of food procurable—would allow, while both families (Caribs or Arawaks) exhibited similar concentrative foci. Here, in common with those affiliated Indians whom Charles Waterton ^a saw throughout Dutch Guiana, communities inhabited clumps of palm-thatched sheds or palisade and wickerwork huts—seldom more than a dozen at one place—invariably placed close to waters furnishing edible supplies that were absolutely essential for self-preservation. Furniture, utensils, and arms were of the rudest kinds—cotton hammocks; a few rough earthen jars applied to purposes that gourds and calabashes would not answer; stone knives, pestles, sinkers, etc.; bone or shell pointed weapons; with well-made canoes often carrying mat sails. Either sex went almost naked; also, like nude savages everywhere, they painted or tattooed themselves, the pigment used being chiefly roucou dye. There were no public religious ceremonials ideas con-

^a *Wanderings in South America.* London, 1898.

cerning an unseen world having developed no further than universal animistic conceptions originated fetishistic cults involving beliefs in witchcraft, sorcery, magic, requiring countercharms which medicine men provided, with a general tendency toward demon worship, principally directed toward the propitiation of some vaguely defined spirit embodying evil in its most powerful form. "L'esprit mauvais est la seule divinité," says J. Chaffanson,^a describing tribes belonging to these groups on the Orinoco and Caura rivers. Half-cleared fields surrounded these little settlements, whose residents made an attempt at cultivating a few species—cassava, papaw, pepper, potatoes, plantains—but mainly depended upon spontaneous growths and game for subsistence.

Early narratives, particularly those of the missionary fathers, Du Tertre^b and Labat,^c fully substantiate what has been said; moreover, making it plain that, unhappily for themselves, Arawaks, who were equal with their Carib enemies in most things, fall far below them as respects the capacity for self-protection. At a later day Aristides Rojas^d calls these indented or islet-fringed coasts "depots for buccaneers;" and when small Indian villages out of supporting distance from one another straggled along shores those hiding places abounding there constantly concealed piratical Cariban flotillas which swept them away, says H. H. Bell,^e with fire, slaughter, and capture. Warriors who did not hesitate to meet the cannon and arquebuses of French or Spanish soldiers would easily overcome exceptionally unwarlike natives; while sixteenth as well as seventeenth century records show that between destructive aboriginal forays and foreign methods for improving the West Indies, their original inhabitants speedily disappeared.

There is no need to cite authorities on the subject of Carib cannibalism. Without exception observers have agreed upon its prevalence; not as part of a sacrificial rite, or in that modified form where anthropophagy becomes a means by which qualities residing in those persons eaten may be acquired, but practiced like any other mode of consuming flesh—unmitigated man-eating, such as prevailed until recently on the Middle Congo, and is repeatedly charged against many tribes of eastern South America during earlier times. It does not seem necessary to notice this custom further than an assumption that its origin was founded in a natural appetite will carry us. Undiscriminating and cacophagous savages had no sentiment which would taboo human flesh. Being omniverous they craved certain foods their surroundings

^a L'Orénoque et Caura. Paris, 1889.

^b Histoire Générale des Antilles. Paris, 1667.

^c Voyage dans l'Amérique. Paris, 1742.

^d Estudios Históricos. Caracas, 1891.

^e Report on the Caribs of Dominica. London, 1902.

did not supply sufficiently. "Meat hunger," as Paul Du Chaillu calls it, drove them to foul feeding of every kind—cannibalistic feasts among other dietary abominations—and the same circumstances have produced similar results in many different countries. Given a like deprivation with corresponding states of development, and unless some preventive contingency intervenes, men will eat each other as naturally as they craze themselves by intoxicants, or adore a venomous snake.

Although culture phases in both families were just above described together, Labat points out some dissimilarities in physical or mental traits and the appliances of life. Insular Caribans were considerably taller than average Arawaks, more muscular, endowed with greater vigor, enterprise, endurance, and courage. Du Tertre's descriptions and plates show what great improvements in boat building had been made among more recent comers from Venezuela since river canoes were first carried eastward by an ocean stream that Edward John Payne^a confounded with the Antarctic drift current, but which Frederick A. Ober^b and others now recognize as a surface movement due to the Orinoco's outflow. Craft, whose tonnage and construction wholly unfitted them for seagoing vessels, gave way before better-modeled, efficiently rigged hulls, and, since Caribs were pirates rather than land outlaws, invention in this direction involved a considerable superiority over adversaries less well provided. They had better arms also; lances, swords, some chroniclers say, but probably long stone knives or hard wood strips set with flint, shells, agouti teeth, etc., besides formidable hatchets and war bows that would "send an arrow through a knight and his horse," like those weapons Pascual de Andagoya describes as used by Carthagena and neighboring Indians. Cariban marauders likewise displayed one virtue that the unfortunate natives, whom their perpetual raids nearly exterminated during pre-Columbian times, do not seem to have shared, namely, cleanliness. Moreover, those savages were more completely clothed, women especially, who used cotton garments—"chimissetas" Labat calls them—which covered their bodies. Furthermore, in addition to limb cinctures, girdles, nose or ear ornaments, skin colorations apparently without any conventional design, except that when painted for war the eyes had red circles drawn around them, these "Bedoweens" of South America, as Humbolt designates Caribs, wore caracolis—"gold-alloy plates" (Du Tertre). Small placer deposits in Guadaloupe are not known to have been worked, so that the adornments mentioned most likely came through communications kept open with terra firma by means of those well-built sailboats previously noted for their weatherly qualities. Finally, the up-to-date history of Cariban tribes

^a History of the New World called America. Oxford, 1892.

^b Camps in the Caribbees. Boston, 1886.

clearly indicates that they exceeded Arawakan groups in intelligence, and, unlike these latter aborigines, ultimately received some tincture of civilization, abandoning nomadic or seminomadic habits, and becoming peaceful, self-supporting people who, although diminishing through causes attributable to incomplete adaptation, yet made equal progress with almost any New World indigenes. "Civilisees et Catholiques" are terms Chaffanjon applies to certain communities on the Orinoco and Caura, who had, no doubt, been sensibly modified through the protracted influences exerted by higher cultures. Bell speaks in a less exaggerated way concerning "the last surviving remnant of these West Indian aborigines," but describes them as being quiet, industrious cultivators and manufacturers. Similar instances might be cited; though it seems unnecessary to further corroborate the fact that under sufficient stress Caribs have made advances such as Arawaks do not appear capable of rivaling.

- Venezuela's unclassed societies are very numerous, and on account of reasons already given, those doubtful aggregates—mixed populations, intruders from neighboring lands, branches whose parent stocks are undiscoverable; a mélange of misnamed, creolized, displaced, fragmentary tribes—will be noticed with reference to those regions into which Codazzi and other geographers have divided this country. Its zones, however, run into one another. No distinct lines separate them, and their inhabitants occupy contiguous provinces wherein diverse natural features have given rise to special names for extensive areas. As examples, the coast range and Venezuelan Andes merge through upland valleys or slopes lying above adjacent plateaus traversed by broad, fertile, subtropical vales, in that vast riverine basin where streams joining the Orinoco flow. Similarly, those central highlands which Reclus says do not form a mountain chain but compose an immense broken convex surface, surmounted by anticlinal foldings differently inclined, with peaks, needle crags, abrupt escarpments, wide cirques, and descending quebradas, which are gradually lost amidst the Llanos. Excepting these latter, also, primeval forests grow alike within temperate parallels and on torrid bottoms, so that the expression "woodland Indians" conveys no idea of locality. Speaking generally, northern and eastern portions of Venezuela were first colonized. Spaniards took possession, as Alexander VI's bull (linea Alexandrina) permitted, and although in civil law resident natives—none of whom had any marked Cariban affinities—became free crown vassals, provincial authorities speedily established that encomienda system under which South American indigenes disappeared as if a permanent pestilence wasted them away. Very soon this territory had no aboriginal inhabitants living in its settled parts; such fierce groups as Guahibos, or those Quivas of whom Désiré Pactor asserts that they possessed "un veritable instinct de sauvergerie

brutale," moving off with Japiraporos, etc., farther west. Like tribesmen at Carthage described by Girolamo Benzoni,^a "they did not want friendship from the King of Castile," or his subjects there present, "who did nothing but injure them." As for Carib societies bordering colonized regions (Chaimas, collectively so-called), all overtures tending toward submission or peace were rejected, and it is only recently their descendants (Ten Kate) living north of Bolivar, beyond Venezuela's gulf (Pinart), or occupying the upper Yapura basin (Keane), have assumed a friendly attitude and exhibited any external signs of an improved social state. Certainly these long inveterate savages do not support Sir Arthur Helps's suggestion^b that "Indians who had, perhaps, the least of what we ordinarily call cultivation, give us an idea of having been most cultivable." At large this family resisted instruction until it became, so to speak, compulsory; then they changed somewhat, though never much, and in so far showed superiority among masses, the majority of whom could not be modified at all, dwindling or perishing under processes instituted to that end.

That immense alluvion, embracing the Orinoco Valley and those basins where all its tributary streams gather their waters, is spoken of by Marquis de Nadaillac^c as containing a dense population, "millions," he asserts, "during the sixteenth century. Humboldt and Bouplan, however, whose explorations took place about seventy-five years ago, estimated the number of inhabitants then living there at less than 1,000,000; and notwithstanding a great diminution, which from various causes followed European intrusion, this former computation is probably an exaggeration. These latter travelers supposed that if nations of the lower regions of equinoctial America had participated in the culture spread over its cold and alpine area, that immense Mesopotamia between the Orinoco and Amazon would have favored a development of their industry, animated their commerce, and accelerated the progress of social order."^d It is needless to repeat what has been said concerning those peoples or that country. Briefly, aborigines here resided in a region whose spontaneous food products only sufficed to keep up an oscillating balance between retrogression and such initiatory improvements as inherent faculty developed, while nothing intervened that would violently disturb an uncertain equipoise. Shocks did occur and entailed disastrous consequences. They had no artificial basis for support, therefore could neither prosecute further advances nor fully recover from the effects of misfortune. Their participation in Andean cultivation was impossible. No Arawakan or Cariban group got beyond savagery through its own efforts. The last strenuously

^a *Historia del Mondo Nuovo*, p. 55. Venice, 1666.

^b *The Spanish Conquest in America*, p. 201. London, 1900.

^c *Prehistoric America*. London, 1885.

^d *Travels*, Vol. V, p. 499. London, 1825.

opposed existing means for bettering themselves during several centuries. These enterprising and unwearied conquerors—polygamous and practicing marriage by capture—intermixed on all sides, and everywhere the Carib blood was prepotent.

Taking populations as distributed throughout river valleys, and whose environments did not present essential differences, we find that while minor inequalities of condition are easily observable, there is a general uniformity in social state which might have been expected under those circumstances above stated. Indians speaking three languages—Idapiminare, Maquiriban, Catarapenno, all alike in outward appearance, common destitution, an absurd travesty of civilized modes of Christian observances, gather round the Orinoco's sources. Broken tribes, linguistically Otomac, occupy lands adjacent to the Apure's, Maypure's, and Tumanac's confluence and along the Upper Rio Negro. All those communities once had missions or Government posts established among them, but were unable to retain anything valuable they were taught and still less competent to use what was communicated as a starting point for future progress. The societies referred to have not only lost distinctive traces of their primordial Mongoloid and Palæolithic European parent races in process of becoming Americanized, but blended family traits; through successive intermixtures, until no individuality remains. Having in great measure reverted to primitive habits, which ostensibly reclaimed savages merely accepted temporarily through imitation or under coercion, both classes of aborigines, those invested with reason by baptism, and "brute Indians," barely manage to live miserably and are surely becoming extinct. They only cultivate a little cassava, says Humboldt, and when fish fail semi-starvation or actual famine comes upon them. Those forest-clad slopes about Esmeralda, the Great Cataract, and wherever in this area Sierra Parima foothills sink into widespread savannas, harbor game that is too small, besides being very thinly scattered over large spaces, for hunting as the sole means of procuring flesh food to furnish an adequate supply. Hence these natives eat nearly everything with blood in it, whether white or red, larvæ, worms, fresh-water molluscs, arthropods, vermin, reptiles, besides birds and land animals of all kinds. They are poor hunters or even trappers, relying mainly on blowguns—weapons whose common use always accompanies a pronounced inferiority as sportsmen and warriors. The diminutive Sarbacan arrows must be poisoned to render them effective, and this device gives an unfailing sign of low grade among peoples by whom it is employed either in war or venery. A liana (bejuco de Mavacura), one of the Strychnos varieties, yields an active principle (wourali) that when inoculated causes sudden death. Its virulence excites untutored minds to fanciful creations. Uncurbed imagination always invests anything mysterious or deadly with supernatural

powers. This poison itself and the methods for extracting or making it more destructive have originated a cycle of folk tales, myths, semireligious rites, and ceremonies. Much that is done during preparation, especially additions made to the concoction by way of increasing its activity, produces no effect whatever. Ritualistic practices persist, however, and early writers, lay or clerical, being devoutly intolerant toward Indian superstitions, anathematize these "beastly mixtures," as Father José de Oviedo calls them (*Historia General y Natural de las Indias*). So also Padres Ruiz, Gomara, Herrera, with Cieza de León, etc., most of the writers giving lists containing articles introduced on purely fetichistic grounds. In this northwestern section, Manuel Llorente Vasquez refers to several entirely unrelated communities living around the Gulf of Maracaibo, some bands inhabiting lacustrine villages, whose peculiar construction suggested that name, which finally fastened itself upon the whole country—Venezuela, little Venice. Lakes Valencia, Zulia, Lagunata, Camaguan, etc., are encircled by alien tribes, who mainly depend upon fish, waterfowl, bird's eggs, with a few insignificant quadrupeds, for animal food. Not much is known about these dispersed and isolated societies. They most likely represent completely hybridized fragments of formerly considerable aggregates who broke up under circumstances that have left no trace behind. Both family peculiarities and ethnic traits possessing any classificatory value were eliminated by their subjection to changeful conditions. Like many tribes seated along the Caura, Apure, Orichima, Guaipiri, and other rivers—for example, Kamurikas, Quiri Quiripas, Guaranos, Arebatos, Mopayos, Yaruros, and Ariguas—physical characteristics germane to entirely different human types are blended among these peoples. Sometimes, however, there is a marked reversion toward one of the primordial stocks, as evinced among Guaguanagomos, whose proto-European resemblances disclose themselves in their large stature, clear-cut eyes, relatively straight faces, horizontal eyes, straggling beards, and subdolichocephalism. But usually a Guarauno ensemble belongs to all, namely, rather pleasing features, undersized though symmetrical and well filled-out bodies, muscular limbs, small hands, short, broad feet, with smooth, reddish-brown skins—"cuivre foncé," says Chaffanjou. Furthermore, cranial contours verge upon brachycephalism; the hair is black; their teeth are strong, white, and good, and they have short and wide noses, not flattened, yet slightly retroussé.

Economic disparities, differences in temperament, appliances, habits of life, mental qualities, appear among those native groups indicated, although none have really emerged from savagery. A majority are mild and inoffensive beings; but some Meta or Capauopaco Indians have been pirates immemorially. From the Orinoco delta to where that river its Essequibo confluent, Guarauno bands live in variously developed states,



MILLENNIAL ENGRAVED STONE, CAICARA.
(Courtesy of Mr. A. Stockman.)

as nomadic, seminomadic, sedentary communities, going almost naked or wearing comfortable, becomingly arranged apparel; possessing a plentiful store of household utensils, personal ornaments, fishing and hunting implements, or showing an extreme destitution in everything that could ameliorate their wretched condition. Certain natives (Atures, Panares) subsist altogether upon natural products, plant nothing and construct no better dwelling places than flimsy straw-thatched sheds. Pisaroas inhabit substantial homes standing on plains intersected with streams, while woodland Maquiritares dwell at small villages composed of solidly made cylindro-conical, palisaded, plastered, roomy huts, divided into separate chambers and provided with the requisites for primitive existence upon its highest plane. They cultivate maize and mandioca, cure fish and flesh; gather, prepare, store provisions against frequently recurring periods of want, but never protect themselves sufficiently to avoid the nearly direct action that natural selection exerts over unadapted men.

On more distant northern or southern reaches of those water courses feeding the Orinoco, as likewise skirting their innumerable tributaries, there are many dislocated, probably creolized and retrogressive subgroups, whose remote position has screened them from observation. We know some tribal names, but scarcely anything more. Désiré Pector specifies these unexplored districts, adding that numerous fluvial tracts now remain nearly uninhabited. As this is not the case with localities more difficult to live in, and since inaccessible situations, with a resolute avoidance of strangers (like Quiriscanos or Quivas displayed) measurably protected them against massacre, contagious disease, destructive oppression, and imported vices; it seems likely that this depopulation was brought about through purely natural causes—an inability shown by numerous American peoples to make adaptations with surroundings which would prevent inevitable degeneration and death. Passivity always means ultimate extinction, except in those rare instances where nature supplies everything essential.

Papiaros, Bamias, and Yaruros, on the middle Orinoco, have been assigned to a Maipure family (Ehrenrich); but whether any sufficient proof of such an affiliated aggregates existence can be given, is doubtful, seeing how variously this name has been applied. Besides these Indians, immigrants settled here. Extra-Venezuelan Panos as R. de la Grassarie asserts;^a Otomacos, with Muyscas, Miranhas, and certain intruders who are probably more Gessan than anything else. Ethnologists generally agree that those scores of tribes seated in this great basin represent a variable mixture from Cariban and Arawakan sources. Possibly there may be bands whose blood is nearly pure on one side or the other; if that ever happens, however, such exceptional

^a Cong. Internat. Américanistes. Berlin, 1888.

peoples are indistinguishable among strains so inextricably entangled. Vayamaras, Arccunas, Chaimas have had the reputation of being "unadulterated Caribs" (Crevaux). As for thoroughbred Arawaks few remain, and their very name has become extinct in a country which, according to current opinion, was once largely populated by these Indians. Its present natives, that is to say, groups formed exclusively of men unmixed with European or African elements, are much diversified throughout this region, and exhibit similar corporeal, psychic, and social contrasts to those pointed out among communities farther west. Cumanacoto, Pariacoto, etc., can neither be classified as members of known stocks, nor is any genealogical inference from tribal designations possible, when like such titles they simply indicate particular habitats. Occasionally, also, almost complete wastes lie within the territory reviewed. As was previously said, hardly a trace of human occupation shows itself in a thousand square leagues bounded by the Orinoco, Cassiquare, Atabapo, and Rio Negro. If an aboriginal Tamanac race once spread over those far-stretching lowlands belonging to this whole mighty fluvial basin, whither have its descendants gone? Who among the peoples sparingly scattered upon that immense expanse may be assigned to a group once so important? Certainly, offshoots from some widely dispersed indigenous aggregate once built cyclopean (not uniformly megalithic) dwellings here; rose far enough above that apathy and inertness characterizing modern Indians to cut vivid impressions of the outward world upon hard porphyritic rocks; realized a future life with an intensity which sustained them under prolonged exertion; witness such ideas manifested by massive tumuli covering stone grave-cysts; or expectations of resurrection evinced in modes of cave sepulture.

That is a very different thing from putting bones of dead companions into baskets, hanging them up to decay quickly in the open air, or interring bodies with like results; customs followed by several independent, unconnected communities, who live on Ventuaré and Guaviare river bottoms, where problematical Maipures are said to have been formerly dominant as a many branched family. Perhaps no instances of what Deniker terms "Ethnic groups"^a are discoverable in the middle Orinoco Valley. Long or short heads and mesaticepalous contours occur together among populations recognized as consanguine; so that these anatomical trails lose whatever classificatory value they possess when restricted to separate aggregates. An assurance of his own unavoidable ignorance should prevent any properly prepared writer from dogmatizing upon questions concerning Venezuelan ethnology which constantly arise, or indulging a tendency toward unwarrantable generalization, whose results must be regretfully recognized

^a Races of Men. London, 1901.

among those conflicting opinions pervading its literature. Nevertheless the subject is not a blank, and if facts (seemingly authentic) teach anything about indigenous societies who inhabited that area mentioned during historical periods, they enforce the correlation between their physical incongruities and such temperamental, intellectual, or economic dissimilarities as within savage states distinguish these peoples. Waiving inquiries as to how certain tribes apparently attained all they could accomplish and conversely did nothing making for progress or in mitigation of annihilating processes by measurably controlled neighboring communities, it suffices to present native societies at a time when foreign interference had not obliterated many distinctive features. Spanish chroniclers agree that forest Indians here and highlanders succeeded better than plain dwellers. Instances have already been given of both classes who lived comparatively comfortably through spontaneous efforts. But Otomacs, Imos, Panares, Mapoyos, Atures neither did nor could do more than live from hand to mouth, the while experiencing a disproportionately heavy death rate. Yet this menace passed unheeded by men incapable of seeing anything portentous which was not at the same time strikingly mysterious and suddenly destructive. As opportunities for bettering themselves remained unseen, so incitements prompting others to action found no response from them. They were not threatened with immediate dissolution, and nothing less than that would have moved these ineffectual savages.

Wild roots, tubers, seeds, and fruits grew on savannas, alluvial tracts, and in forest opens; still, like uncultivated vegetable species generally, these were scattered, and a resident population soon exhausted natural supplies. The apio, capacho, yuca, lairene, maguey, or forms of another class—aguacates, chirimoyas, pineapples, plantains, with coconuts, palm products, lechocos, parchas, and misperos, etc.—had this grave distributive disadvantage attached to their presence. Moreover, most spontaneous growths showed deficiencies among elements which normal nutrition requires, and edible plants could never be found gathered at one place. Therefore, human beings, whose physiological demands are uncompromising, either gradually declined from the vigor, fertility, strength, mentality acquired somewhere else, or, under exceptional conditions, temporarily stood still. Similar drawbacks beset animal foods in respect of quality and modes for procurement. Venezuela was never a great game country. Turtles, fish, aquatic mammalia, change places and must be sought. Still more so is this the case with birds, while terrestrial forms, apart from that innutritive character which a majority of those species most commonly consumed displayed, were much dispersed and led hunters over wide expanses. All this not only made noncultivating man nomads, but, furthermore, insured scanty or ineffectual feeding with their progeny of failures.

These aborigenes got little first-class flesh, and as a rule they probably expended an amount of tissue or energy in pursuit which balanced any benefits following its capture.

Every step onward from pure savagery implies an increased quantity of stored grain (Payne), together with more and more thoroughly organized labor. Yet these Indians, some among whom cultivated maize, mandioca, and potatoes to a small extent, never provided themselves against such frequently repeated periods of scarcity as primitive societies are certain to encounter. Except making clearings, and even this not consistently, women did all the work, while men hunted, fished, or fought. They went so far behindhand in appeasing those cravings which constitutional want inspires that innutrition expressed itself through morbid and unnatural appetites. The splendid Orinoco Valley held more earth-eating and cannibal tribes than any other continuous territory of America. Hunger produced both practices. An inanition that continued through generations made intemperance universal and, when natives learned how to distill rum, gave rise to the most disastrous excesses. Before that period, however, drunkenness, say early explorers or missionary priests, held Venezuelan lowlanders with the gripe of a passion. Wherever materials for manufacturing fermented liquors abounded, indigenes drank deep and constantly.^a Every lethal agent was used inordinately—niopo pods, tobacco, snuffed, smoked, and swallowed (Padre Gili), with certain "black drinks" analysts merely allude to. They had no tonics; stimulants killed them; but savages knew of nothing else which would relieve the languor, abiding sadness, and sense of failure that poorly nourished bodies bring upon unfortunate human beings. Their whole environment—inorganic, organic, and superorganic, all they did or left undone—tended toward retrogression, decrepitude, and death.

There are no unmixed Americans on the llanos. Quite probably those immense champaigns never contained permanent populations, but several tribes occupied Orinoco delta lands. Humboldt and Bonplan give Guaycas, Caribs, and Guayanos for the principal aggregates, though this last group has branches in neighboring highlands and perhaps all three societies represented once widely diffused stocks, as Caribans undoubtedly did. Here live Guaranos (Worrows) likewise, hybridized beyond recognition from positive family resemblances; yet, taking their extra-Venezuelan source into consideration, and some modified yet still surviving traits of paleolithic man, these Indians have been sometimes assigned to "that most ancient Botocudo type,"

^a Fray Jacinto de Carvajal (*Relacions del Descubrimiento del Río Apure*) gives a long list of fruits sweet enough to be fermented. So also Father Gonvara (*Historia General de las Indias*), Padra Luiz (*Conquistata espiritual*), José Oviedo in his "Sumario, Manuel Vázquez" (*Cuadros Americanos*), and many others, who leave an impression that Venezuelan Indians were preeminently intemperate among South American families, all more or less given to excessive drinking.

as Alfred Deberle calls it,^a whose physical characteristics ally them with Brazilian Gessans. This classification has been flatly contradicted, like most genealogical statements, but at all events they partially preserve the same modes of life here which their Guiana cognates adopted involuntarily. In either country, partially submerged morasses protected fugitive bands against enemies with whom it was hopeless to contend. Clusters of wattle-and-daub huts built on platforms supported by piles made up villages hidden within vast, inaccessible swamps. Apparently, such surroundings must necessarily have placed human existence in its lowest grade; wanting everything accessory to health or prosperity, it would seem that beings almost wholly subjected by the environment could have found no more unpromising station. Part of this population was arboreal. Something closely resembling mankind's most primitive form of association must have prevailed, since it is questionable whether any family group became organized under such circumstances (Starcke).^b These miserable creatures were not able to come down from trees and mingle amidst encircling forests, like certain degraded Australasian Nigritoes similarly situated. Their hammocks hung upon Mauritia palms, which supplied "food and wine" (Humboldt); water or mud lay beneath; active life mainly passed in dugouts or on reed floats, carrying solitary savages who prosecuted one absorbing search for anything alive it was possible to eat. All this delta territory was not marsh land, however, and these same Worrows, with other aborigines, inhabited better localities. Furthermore, Father José Gumilla^c refers to Caverre Indians as "more inhuman, bloodthirsty, and cruel than Caribs." No light could be thrown upon Venezuelan natives by repeating tribal designations taken from old Spanish records, or other so-called "nations" might find place among those already specified, because something, at least, is known about them. Otherwise, such cataloguing seems nothing beyond a mere pretense at completeness. Without exception, indigenes of this country were in a savage state. That is not an expression which has no definite or fixed meaning, but one whose salient and unvarying features have been scientifically determined. There was an important difference in condition between men like those inhabiting quagmires near the Orinoco's mouth and people possessing comparatively well-constructed dwellings adjoining cultivated fields, but psychologically fundamental likenesses put both into one class. There was a range of faculty as expressed by special arts; no radical dissimilarity in that evolutionary phase which impressed everything accomplished with its essential character. These natives had done what they could, when strangers whose own nobler race required millen-

^a *Histoire l'Amérique du Sud.* Paris, 1897.

^b *The Primitive Family.* Iss. 1878.

^c *Historia Natural de las naciones del Rio Orinoco.* Madrid, 1791.

niums to develop a civilization did their utmost with dogmas and mechanical devices toward effecting this end instantaneously. We know how the attempted transformation terminated, either spiritually or economically. South American improvements have not been prosecuted by Indians. Christianity never became self-propagating among pure indigenes.

From Canada to Patagonia the "relations" of missionary priests attributed ill-success to any cause but their attempt at achieving an impossibility. So manifold were ultimate failures that men who had no conception of the organic indeterminateness of a savage's mind, its evasive impressions, impotence in presence of abstractions, and incapability to receive anything not recast in his own image, believed devils thwarted them continually, and saw machinations of infernal spirits on every side. Humboldt mildly says that those methods adopted by "apostolic conquerors" were premature. At all events Ramon Lopez Borroquero^a only echoes what many eminent evangelists have sadly confessed, namely, the superficial and evanescent effects which instruction produced. Father Dobritzhöfer (*An Account of the Abiponas*) describing a general break-up among Paraguayan stations no longer able to forcibly control Indian proselytes, says: "In a moment they were gone." Père Lalement, lamenting over an unlawful supply of French brandy procured by Canadian Algonkians, writes this: "We lose in one month the fruits of our toil and labor during thirty years." It matters little what proximate causes inducing reaction may have appeared, since one or another was inevitable. These devoted idealists failed because unevolved humanity invincibly resists such alterations as the scheme acted upon sought to bring about. They endeavored to rear an edifice for whose support no foundation could be laid.

Similarly with land tenure and the social structure to which it gives rise, religion here assumed its crudest form. Animistic magic was Venezuela's sole systematic cult, and there is nothing lower. Beneath lies an inane where no clearly defined objects of human adoration are recognizable—only vague indistinct spectra everywhere, begotten by fear and longing. Those savages never went through processes of compounding and recomounding to finally blend malign fetish-genii and mischievous spirits in rocks, trees, or rivers into beneficent deities. Any appreciation of nature's constants lay far beyond them, so that there were no greater gods; and as M. Sylvain Lévi^b said, concerning a somewhat higher though strictly analogous faith (ethics did not enter it at all; without being immoral, religion was unmoral): "Sacrifice, which regulates the relation of man to divinities, through a mechanical act operating by its own spontaneous energy (*par son*

^a *Indios Caribes*. Madrid, 1876.

^b *Doctrine du sacrifice chez les Brahmanes*. Paris, 1898.

energy intine), and that, hidden in the bosom of nature, is only brought by the priests' magic art."

Other sociological elements were correspondingly organized. Most communities being seminomadic, and at best but nonchalant, ineffectual agriculturists, they scattered to avoid starvation, thereby rendering themselves incompetent for those developments which are alone possible when men can form large congregations. As consequences of isolation, the rudimentary communism existing in dispersed bands could not be evolved into systems incorporating customary law, or regulating external relations spontaneously originated among pueblo populations, where associated gentes necessarily define mutual claims and establish some formal policy toward their neighbors. Under such circumstances native Venezuelans must needs have been savages, and when, in an age where every nation seemed almost incomprehensively blind to any perception of indefeasible human rights, came a devastating foreign conquest, nothing else than that which actually befell lay within limits of possibility.

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CHAPTER II.

GOVERNMENT—CONSTITUTIONAL ORGANIZATION—CITIZENSHIP, RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF FOREIGNERS—GUARANTIES—LAWS, CIVIL, CRIMINAL, AND COMMERCIAL—RELIGION.

GOVERNMENT UNDER SPAIN.

Rule of the Spanish Crown.—Twelve years after the discovery of Venezuela by Columbus, in 1510, the Spaniards established the first village on the island of Cubagua. The city of Cumaná was settled in 1520,^a Asunción (on the island of Margarita) in 1525, and La Vela (Coro) in 1527. Spain waged war with the Venezuelan aborigines for a period of forty years, from 1527 to 1567. When the great cacique (Indian chief) Guaicaipuro was killed, 21 of the most powerful chiefs of Indian tribes offered their submission. They were court-martialed and put to death. Thenceforward the Spaniards asserted their authority over the country.

For two hundred and thirty-nine years Venezuela remained loyal as a Spanish colony, from 1567 to 1806. In the latter year General Miranda landed at Coro at the head of a force of patriots and raised the standard of revolt against Spain, but after many sanguinary engagements they were defeated and dispersed.

INDEPENDENCE FROM SPAIN.

Declaration of independence.—It was in Caracas, on the 5th of July, 1811, that the Republic was proclaimed.^b For ten years a sanguinary war was waged between the patriots and the mother country, until the liberator, Simón Bolívar, at the head of the patriot force, encountered, on June 25, 1821, on the plains of Carabobo, the Spanish army and overwhelmingly defeated it. The decisive victory sealed the independence of Venezuela, Colombia, and Ecuador and permitted Bolívar to later liberate Peru and to found the Republic of Bolivia, which is so called in his honor.

SEPARATION FROM GREATER COLOMBIA.

The first movement of separation of Venezuela from Greater Colombia was effected on May 6, 1830 (the first constitution was sanctioned

^aThe oldest city on the American continent.

^bSee act of independence, p. 555-559.

September 22, 1830), and Bolívar's death, which occurred on December 13 of said year, decided the separation. The first constitutional Congress met in April, 1836.

Acknowledgment of independence.—Venezuela acknowledged the Republics of New Granada and Ecuador on April 9 and 29, 1832. New Granada acknowledged Venezuela on December 14, 1833, and Spain formally acknowledged Venezuela, as an independent nation, on March 26, 1845.

CONSTITUTIONAL ORGANIZATION.

Constitutions sanctioned in Venezuela.—Since Venezuela became an independent nation several constitutions have been promulgated. This is due to the fact that according to a constitutional provision, when a law reforms another law, the new text must be given in full. The table below gives the date and year of promulgation of each constitution:

Date and year of promulgation.

September 22	1830	April 27	1881
April 18	1857	June 21	1893
December 31	1858	March 26	1901
April 22	1864	April 27	1904
May 27	1874		

Present constitution.—The present national constitution of the United States of Venezuela was sanctioned on April 27, 1904. The form of government is according to the popular, elective, federal, representative, alternative, and responsible principles.

Constitutions of the States.—Each of the thirteen States composing the Federal Union of Venezuela has its own constitution, based upon the same principles and modeled after the national constitution.

National constitution.—The national constitution provides for a separate but correlative existence of the three powers forming the Federal Government and those of the States of the Union, the constitutions of the various States being based upon the same republican representative federal system in accordance with the principles, declarations, and guaranties of the national constitution. Thus the States which form the Venezuelan federation are ruled by one and the same laws in regard to civil, criminal, fiscal, military, and educational matters. Therefore, all public acts and judicial proceedings of one State have the full force of law and authority in the others.

This legislation is issued by the National Congress, and not by any State in particular.

Powers.—The three powers to which the Government is intrusted are the legislative, the federal executive, and the judiciary.

LEGISLATIVE POWER.

All legislative power is vested in a Congress, which consists of a Senate and a House of Representatives, the latter called Chamber of Deputies.

House of Representatives (Deputies).—The House of Deputies in Venezuela is composed of members chosen by direct vote, in accordance with the electoral law. According to the census law in force, each State elects one deputy and one alternate to fill vacancies for every 40,000 inhabitants, and another for a surplus of 20,000. A State not having the latter population elects, nevertheless, one deputy and one alternate. Deputies must not be less than 21 years of age and Venezuelans by birth. The federal district elects its deputies and alternates in the manner prescribed for the States, and the Federal Territories having the required number of inhabitants do likewise. Unsubdued aborigines are not computed as forming a basis of population. Deputies are appointed for a period of six years. (Const., arts. 31-33.)

Senate.—The Senate of Venezuela is composed of two Senators from each State, chosen by the legislature thereof for six years. Senators must be natural-born citizens of Venezuela and not less than 30 years of age. (Const., arts. 35-36.)

Meeting of Congress.—Congress assembles regularly, without convocation, every two years in the capital of the Union, on May 23 or the immediate day following, and the session lasts ninety days without prorogation. (Const., art. 38.)

Organization of Congress.—A majority of two-thirds the number of members of each house is necessary to open the sittings in either house, which hold them separately and they assemble in Congress when so determined by law or at the request of either house. Sittings may be public or secret. Congress is presided over by the president of the Senate, the president of the House of Representatives acting as Vice-President. (Const., arts. 38-51.)

Power vested in Congress.—Congress has power:

1. To take cognizance of the resignations of the President and Vice-Presidents of the Republic.
2. To examine, approve, or disapprove accounts according to article 86.
3. To enact the organic and electoral laws of the Federal District and Federal Territories.
4. To raise Federal Territories to States when so asked, provided the conditions of article 4 be complied with.
5. To lay and collect the national taxes.
6. To sanction national codes and laws organizing the national militia.

7. To fix the standard, value, fineness, weight, and coinage of national money, based on the gold standard, and decide on the admission and circulation of foreign currency.

8. To create, abolish, and fix salaries of national offices.

9. To determine regarding the national debt and its interest.

10. To make loans on the credit of Venezuela.

11. To decree the taking of a census every ten years and the compilation of statistics.

12. To approve or disapprove diplomatic treaties and conventions according to law.

13. To approve or disapprove contracts of national interest concluded by the Federal executive.

14. To sanction the general budget.

15. To fix and make uniform the national weights and measures.

16. To enact all laws for carrying into execution the powers vested in the Federal powers.

17. To elect the electoral body, as provided by article 70.

18. To elect the Supreme Federal Court (*Corte Federal y de Casación*), as provided by articles 91 to 93. (Const., art. 52.)

Acts of Congress.—The acts sanctioned by either of the legislative chambers, passed separately, are called laws (*leyes*), and those in Congress assembled, or separately on matters exclusively vested on each chamber, are called resolutions (*acuerdos*). (Const., art. 53.)

Power vested in the House of Representatives (Deputies).—The House of Deputies has power:

1. To issue a vote of censure against any cabinet minister, and it has the effect of vacating the position.

2. To appoint the attorney-general (*procurador general de la nación*) and two alternates.

3. The others that the law may provide. (Const., art. 34.)

Power vested in the Senate.—The Senate has power:

1. To grant to distinguished Venezuelans the honor of having their mortal remains deposited in the National Pantheon.

2. To give or withhold its consent to national functionaries for admitting gifts, commissions, honors, and rewards from foreign countries.

3. The others that the law may provide. (Const., art. 37.)

FEDERAL EXECUTIVE POWER.

The Federal executive power is vested in the President of the United States of Venezuela, together with the cabinet ministers who are his representatives. (Const., art. 68.)

Qualifications of the President.—No person except a natural-born citizen of Venezuela who has attained the age of 30 years is eligible to the office of President. (Const., art. 73.)

Presidential term of office.—The President holds his office during a term of six years and can not be reelected for the term immediately following that which he presides. (Const., arts. 132 and 77.)

Oath.—Prior to entering on the execution of his office the President must make oath before Congress. (Const., art. 73, § 1.)

Provision of disability.—In case of temporal or absolute inability on the part of the President to discharge his powers and duties, the same shall devolve in the following order on the First Vice-President and Second Vice-President. When the latter takes charge, due to absolute disability of the President and First Vice-President, or when the disability occurs during the time he is in charge of the presidency, he shall convoke immediately the Senate to elect the person who shall replace him. (Const., art. 74.)

Powers vested in the President.—The powers originally and especially vested in the President of the United States of Venezuela are as follows:

1. To appoint and remove from office the cabinet ministers.
2. To receive and welcome diplomatic representatives of other nations.
3. To sign the official letters addressed to sovereigns or chief magistrates of other countries.
4. To exercise superior civil and political authority, through a governor, in the Federal District.
5. To administer the Federal Territories according to law.
6. To conduct war personally or appoint who shall do it.
7. To leave temporarily the capital of the Republic on matters of public interest. (Const., art. 75.)

Proceedings of election.—The electoral body consists of 14 members of the National Congress, composed of one representative, either senator or deputy, for each State, and one additional deputy for the Federal District. The electoral body, as soon as it is organized, elects the President from their number or outside of it. At least two-thirds of their members must be present, and the person who obtains absolute majority of votes is proclaimed President of the United States of Venezuela. The First and Second Vice-Presidents are elected by the same body, with the same formalities, in the same session of the electoral body. (Const., arts. 70-72.)

Powers vested in the Federal Executive.—The Federal Executive has power:

1. To direct the enforcement of the constitution and the laws.
2. To issue decrees or rules for the better enforcement of the laws.
3. To convoke Congress to extraordinary session.
4. To organize the army and militia.
5. To preserve the nation from all attack.

6. To declare war.
7. To defend the Federal District.
8. To ask the States to help to defend the nation and its institutions; to collect taxes before they are due; to make effective on national and foreign citizens the right of expulsion; to suspend certain rights; to appoint the place where the general powers may be located when grievous motives so demand it; to initiate the trials for treason against Venezuelans, and to issue privateer patents.
9. To make use of armed force to settle armed collision between two States of the Union.
10. To direct the attorney-general to invalidate any act violating the bases of the Union.
11. To grant amnesties and indults.
12. To negotiate loans.
13. To supervise the collection of the national revenue.
14. To manage public lands, mines, salt mines; tobacco and alcohol taxes, according to law.
15. To direct diplomatic negotiations and conclude treaties according to law.
16. To enter into contracts of national interest.
17. To establish rules for the post, telegraph, and telephones of the Union.
18. To direct the taking of the census.
19. To issue navigation patents.
20. To issue naturalization papers according to law.
21. To allow or prohibit the admission of foreigners to the service of the Republic.
22. To prohibit foreigners from entering or remaining in the country, unless they have there their established domicile.
23. To forbid foreigners especially devoted to the service of any worship or religion, no matter what their order or hierarchy may be, from entering the territory of the Republic.
24. To appoint national functionaries whose appointment does not depend upon another functionary.
25. To remove from office certain employees, or have them suspended or impeached.
26. To carry into execution all the other functions vested by law. (Const., art. 80.)



BOLIVAR'S STATUE AND TOMB IN THE NATIONAL PANTHEON, CARACAS.
(Courtesy of the Venezuelan Government.)



Names of Presidents and Vice-Presidents of Venezuela and Presidential Periods from 1831 to 1904.

Constitutional Presidents.	Month.	Day.	Year.	Vice-Presidents.
Gen. José Antonio Páez.....	March.....	26	1831	Dr. Diego B. Urbaneja.
Dr. José M. Vargas (resigned).....	February.....	9	1835	Dr. Andrés Narvarte.
Gen. José Antonio Páez.....	.....do.....	10	1839	Santos Michelena.
Gen. Carlos Soublette.....	January.....	28	1843	Dr. Diego B. Urbaneja.
Gen. José Tadeo Monagas.....	March.....	1	1847	Antonio L. Guzmán.
Gen. José Gregorio Monagas.....	February.....	18	1851	Dr. Joaquín Herrera.
Gen. José Tadeo Monagas (resigned).....	January.....	31	1855	Gen. J. Francisco Oriach.
Manuel F. de Tovar (resigned).....	April.....	12	1860	Dr. Pedro Gual.
Gen. J. C. Falcón (provisional).....	June.....	15	1863	Gen. Antonio Guzmán Blanco.
Gen. J. C. Falcón (constitutional).....	March.....	.....	1865	Several designates acted.
Gen. A. Guzmán Blanco (provisional).....	April.....	27	1870	Gen. José I. Pulido.
Gen. A. Guzmán Blanco (constitutional).....	.....do.....	27	1872	Several designates acted.
Gen. F. Linares Alcántara (died).....	March.....	2	1877	Several ministers acted.
Gen. A. Guzmán Blanco (provisional).....	February.....	25	1879	Dr. Diego B. Urbaneja.
Gen. A. Guzmán Blanco (constitutional).....	March.....	17	1880	Several ministers acted.
Gen. A. Guzmán Blanco (constitutional reform).....	.....do.....	17	1882	The presidents of the Federal council.
Gen. Joaquín Crespo.....	April.....	27	1884	The Federal council.
Gen. A. Guzmán Blanco (resigned).....	March.....	27	1886	Dr. Manuel A. Díez and Gen. Hermógenes López.
Dr. J. P. Rojas Paúl.....	July.....	5	1888	Federal council.
Dr. R. Andueza Palacio.....	March.....	7	1890	Do.
Gen. Joaquín Crespo (provisional).....	October.....	10	1892	Ministers of the executive.
Gen. Joaquín Crespo (constitutional).....	March.....	5	1894	Government council.
Gen. Ignacio Andrade.....	.....do.....	1	1898	Do.
Gen. Cipriano Castro (provisional).....	October.....	.....	1900	Council of ministers.
Gen. Cipriano Castro (constitutional).....	.....do.....	.....	1901	Gen. Juan V. Gómez.
Gen. Cipriano Castro (provisional, nom. for 1906-1911).....	February.....	20	1902	Gen. Ramón Ayala.
Do.....	May.....	23	1904	Gen. Juan V. Gómez.

Persons still living who have been chiefs of the executive power of Venezuela (1868 to 1904).^a

- Gen. Luis Rafael Caspers, Second Vice-President of the Republic from 1867 to 1868. Did not exercise the supreme power.
- Dr. Guillermo Tell Villegas, President of the plural Government of 1868 to 1869, Second Vice-President, acted as supreme magistrate on three occasions, from 1869 to 1870, and on three occasions from 1890 to 1892, through the absence of President Andueza Palacio.
- Gen. José Ignacio Pulido, discharged the office of President from 1870 to 1871.
- Dr. Laureano Villanueva, minister of the interior, exercised the executive power through the absence of General Alcántara, from June 2 to July 23, 1878. Through the illness of the same President he was again in charge of the executive for some days during the month of November, 1878.
- Gen. Eleazar Urdaneta, Second Vice-President, who exercised the power in January and part of February, 1879.
- Dr. Manuel Antonio Díaz, Federal counselor, from April 27 to September 14, 1886.
- Gen. Juan Tomás Pérez, Federal counselor, in charge of the Presidency from June 21 to August 1, 1887.
- Dr. Juan Pablo Rojas Paúl, Constitutional President from July 5, 1888, to March 19, 1889.
- Dr. Guillermo Tell Villegas Pulido, Federal counselor, in charge of the executive from September 1 to October 6, 1892.
- Dr. Juan Pietri, minister of finance and public credit, in charge of the national executive during some days in January, 1893.
- Gen. Manuel Guzmán Alvarez, Vice-President, in charge of the Presidency from October 6, 1893, to March 14, 1894.
- Gen. Ignacio Andrade, Constitutional President, who filled the office from February 28, 1898, to October 20, 1899.

^a Manuel Landaeta Rosales.

Gen. Víctor Rodríguez, president of the council of government, who exercised the presidency on the 14th, 15th, and 16th of September and the 20th, 21st, and 22d of October, 1899.

Gen. Cipriano Castro, supreme chief of the Republic from October 23, 1899, to March 31, 1901. From that date to March 10, 1902, Provisional President, and since then Constitutional President.

Gen. Juan Vicente Gómez, First Vice-President from March, 1901, to March 10, 1902, and since then Second Vice-President, having exercised the supreme power from July 5 to November 9, 1902.

Gen. Ramón Ayala, Vice-President from March, 1901, to March 10, 1902, and since then First Vice-President; has never exercised the Presidency.

Cabinet ministers.—The President of Venezuela has the number of cabinet ministers which the law may prescribe. (Const., art. 81.) At present the cabinet is composed of the following departments:

1. Minister for interior relations.
2. Minister for foreign relations.
3. Minister of finance and public credit.
4. Minister of fomento (promotion).
5. Minister of war and navy.
6. Minister of public works.
7. Minister of public instruction.

8. The governor of the federal district is also a member of the cabinet.

Qualifications.—No person except a natural-born citizen of Venezuela, who has attained 25 years of age, is eligible for the position of cabinet minister. (Const., art. 82.)

Duties.—All acts of the President of Venezuela shall be countersigned by the respective minister. Without this requisite they lack all legal force. (Const., art. 83.)

Responsibilities.—Ministers incur personal responsibility for the acts they countersign and have a right to be heard in both houses, where they may be summoned to inform regarding their respective departments. They are likewise amenable to law for high treason, for infraction of the constitution and laws, for exceeding budget expenses, for subornation, and embezzlement. (Const., arts. 84-88.)

ORGANIZATION OF DEPARTMENTS.

These departments shall have, for the dispatch of their respective business, a secretary called director for each section and the necessary number of clerks.

INTERIOR RELATIONS DEPARTMENT.

This department has the following two directions or sections. The political director becomes acting minister in the absence of the latter.

Political direction.—Has the dispatch of the matters comprised under the following headings: Relations of the Federal Government with the States, public order, national police, national agents in the

States, national elections, national congress, legislatures, national coat of arms, seal, and flag, constitutional and legal organization of the Republic, council of government, decorations and medals, naturalization of foreigners, national holidays, court of appeals and Federal court,^a annual compilation, promulgation and codification of laws, resolutions, and sentences, national pantheon.

Administrative direction has the dispatch of the matters comprised under the following headings: General administration, legislation, civil marriage, public registry, charities, Federal territories, civilization of Indians, ecclesiastic patronate, general files, justice, navigation, religion and public worship, official publications, budget of the department.

FOREIGN RELATIONS DEPARTMENT.

This department has the following directions:

Direction of public international law.—This section has the dispatch of the following matters: Equality, independence, and sovereignty of the nation, dominion, territorial limits, territorial and maritime jurisdiction, fluvial right, acknowledgment of belligerency, acknowledgment of independence, the drafting, enactment, interpretation, and denouncement of public treaties, diplomatic negotiations, diplomatic claims, right of legislation, immunity of sovereigns, armies and foreign men of war within the territory of the Republic, immunities, privileges, and duties of public ministers, documents relating to their capacity, their presentation and reception, diplomatic passports, departure of ministers, amicable arrangement of international questions, claiming uninhabited countries, retortion, refuge, extradition, shipwreck, and declaration of hostilities, hostility against persons and property of the enemy, exchange of prisoners of war, privateers, seizures, rights and obligations of natives, transit of belligerent forces through neutral lands and waters, right of postliminium, negotiations relative to the state of war. The director of this section becomes acting minister in the latter's absence.

Direction of private international law has the dispatch of the following matters: Principles on law of residence, expulsion, extraterritorial effects of laws, civil and criminal jurisdiction, extraterritorial value of judicial acts, rights and duties of resident and transient foreigners, principles on testamentary successions, organization, letters patent, exequators and their suspension, privileges, exemptions, duties of consuls and their jurisdiction, decorations and medals, budget of the department.

FINANCE AND PUBLIC CREDIT DEPARTMENT.

This department has the following directions:

Direction of custom-houses.—Has the dispatch of matters relating to custom-houses, import and export tariff, port officials, inspectors of finance, board of examiners, consular invoices and manifests, orders for exemption of duties.

^a Now one court, called Supreme Federal Court.

Direction of the treasury.—Dispatches everything relating to inland custom-houses, transit taxes and grants of the States, expenditure of treasure, sealed paper, currency, treasury, board of centralization, banks, and navigation patents.

Direction of the budget.—Dispatches everything concerning the law of public income, and expenditure, payment of the personnel in the civil service, furniture and utensils in public offices, radications, claims for payment against the public service, payment of public printing, and rectifications of the budget.

Direction of salt deposits or mines.—Has everything relating to these mines and the court of accounts, finance courts, and everything relative to maritime smuggling and seizures.

Direction of public property.—Has everything relative to it and the distribution of official documents, decorations and medals, commercial statistics, and budget of the department.

Direction of public credit.—Has charge of the direction of internal and external credit, to which correspond the external debt, the interior credit, the diplomatic debt, and everything concerning public debts in general.

FOMENTO DEPARTMENT.

This department has the following directions:

Direction of statistics and immigration.—Has charge of everything relative to general statistics, immigration, and public lands.

Direction of public wealth, agriculture, and stock raising.—Has control over everything relative to agriculture, mines, industries, commerce, exemption of duties, redemption of censuses, decorations and medals, expositions, and budget of the department.

Direction of posts and telegraphs.—Has charge of everything relative to the universal postal union, postal packages, land, maritime, and fluvial posts, telegraphs and telephones, and cable lines.

PUBLIC INSTRUCTION DEPARTMENT.

Has the following three directions:

Direction of superior instruction.—Has charge of everything pertaining to universities, national and private colleges, fine arts and scientific expositions, academies, atheneums, museums, libraries, botanical and zoological gardens.

Direction of fine arts.—Has charge of all matters related to that branch.

Direction of statistics and accounts.—Has charge of the statistics of the schools of the Republic, administration of the public instruction, rent and fiscals of public instruction.

Direction of primary popular instruction.—Has charge of all the primary schools, normal schools, school of arts and trades, inspectorships, decorations and medals, budget of the departments.

WAR AND NAVY DEPARTMENT.

Has three directions:

Direction of war.—Has charge of the organization, administration, direction, economy, discipline, service of the national public force, general inspection and organization of the staffs, propositions for military promotion, hospitals and ambulances, and military courts-martial.

Direction of the navy.—Has charge of the personnel and matériel of the navy, arsenals and naval storehouses, nautical schools, naval militia, military trials of the navy, trials of seizures, decorations and medals, budget of the department.

Direction of statistics and accounts.—Has everything relative to disablements and reinstatements in the muster rolls, temporary or permanent furloughs, baggage and transports, arms and ammunition.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

This department has the following directions:

Direction of buildings and improvement of towns and cities.—Has charge of buildings, beautifying of towns and cities, examination of buildings, budgets and accounts of the boards of public works, harbor works, shipyards and light-houses, and decorations and medals.

Direction of ways and means of communication.—Has charge of aqueducts, accounts, general means of communication, ways, roads, railroads, canalization, cleaning of rivers, compilation and publication of tables, account of all articles and property belonging to the department, the budget of the latter, and inspection of works.

JUDICIAL POWER.

The judiciary power of Venezuela is vested in the supreme federal court (Corte Federal y de Casación) and in such inferior tribunals and courts as may be established by law. (Const., art. 89.)

Qualifications for the supreme federal court.—To form the supreme federal court Congress shall elect 7 members, who must be natural-born citizens of Venezuela, who have attained 30 years of age, and are lawyers of the Republic. For the purpose of electing the candidates of the court the States of the Union are considered to be divided into 7 groups. Each group shall be represented by one member in the court. The Federal District and the State of Miranda form one group. The members of the court are appointed for six years and may be reelected. The supreme federal court is the supreme tribunal of the Federation and of the States. (Const., arts. 90-94.)

Powers vested in the supreme federal court.—Besides the powers vested in this court by the constitution, the national codes and the laws of the States regarding elections, the supreme federal court has power:

1-2. To take cognizance of cases of impeachment against the Presi-

dent of the Republic, his alternates, ministers of the cabinet, the attorney-general, the governor of the Federal District, members of the court itself, presidents of the States, and high functionaries in the cases in which said functionaries are responsible according to the constitution. In these trials this supreme tribunal shall declare whether there is reason to hold such trials. If its findings are in the affirmative the official shall be removed from office and if negative all proceedings shall cease.

3. To take cognizance of civil or criminal cases brought against the diplomatic representatives in cases allowed by international law.

4. To take cognizance of cases of impeachment instituted against the diplomatic representatives of Venezuela abroad for malfeasance of office.

5. To take cognizance of civil cases when allowed by law and action is brought against the nation.

6. To take cognizance of the appeal to *casación* (writ of error) according to the law.

7. To take cognizance of cases of prize.

8. To decide controversies of a political nature between officials of different States in matters within the jurisdiction of the court.

9. To decide cases of conflict of legislation submitted for decision where it is not especially vested in another authority.

10. To declare the invalidity of national laws when in conflict with the constitution.

11. To declare which is the law in force where there is conflict among them.

12. To declare null and void the acts of Congress and the Executive violating rights guaranteed to the States.

13. To declare null and void all acts usurping authority comprised in articles 24 and 25 of the constitution.

14. To take cognizance of cases of controversy in contracts or negotiations made by the President of the Republic.

15. To declare when and in which case (if treaties are not in opposition) foreign judgments can be enforced.

16. The other powers that may be granted by this constitution and the laws. (Const., art. 95.)

CITIZENSHIP.

Natural-born Venezuelans.—The following are natural-born citizens of Venezuela:

1. All persons who have been or may be born on Venezuelan soil, and

2. The children of Venezuelan parents, whatever may be the place of their birth. (Const., art. 8, sec. a.)

Naturalized citizens.—Venezuelans by naturalization are:

1. All persons born or who may hereafter be born in the Spanish-American Republics, provided they have acquired domicile in the Republic and shown their desire to become Venezuelans.

2. Foreign-born persons who have been naturalized according to law.

3. Foreigners who have become Venezuelans by virtue of special laws.

4. Foreign women married to Venezuelans; but if the matrimonial bond is dissolved and they wish to retain the Venezuelan nationality they must make the corresponding declarations.

Rule of naturalization.—The declaration of the wish to become a Venezuelan is made before the principal registrar of the jurisdiction in which the person may establish his residence. The registrar on receiving such a declaration records it and sends a copy to the national executive to be published in the official gazette. (Const., art. 9.)

Political rights and duties of Venezuelans.—Venezuelan males who have attained the age of 21 years are electors and eligible to public offices, subject to no other conditions than those expressed in the constitution and the laws. (Const., art. 10.)

All Venezuelans are bound to serve the nation and enjoy in the territory of Venezuela equal rights and have the same duties under no other conditions than those established by the constitution. (Const., arts. 11-12.)

RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF FOREIGNERS.

Rights of foreigners.—The rights and duties of foreigners shall be determined by law. (Const., art. 13.)

Foreigners who participate in political contests of the country incur the same responsibilities as Venezuelans and are subject to the provisions of item 8 of article 80. (Const., art. 14.)

Foreigners or Venezuelans can not claim indemnity of the nation or of the States for damages, losses, or seizure of property, unless it is the work of lawful authorities acting in their public character. (Const., art. 15.)

ALIEN LAW.

This law was sanctioned by the Venezuelan Congress on April 11, 1903, and enforced by the Federal Executive on the 16th of the same month and year.

The full text of the law is as follows:

“ARTICLE 1. Foreigners shall enjoy in the territory of the United States of Venezuela the same civil rights as Venezuelans, as determined by the constitution of the Republic.

"RESIDENT FOREIGNERS.

"ART. 2. Foreigners staying within the territory of the United States of Venezuela shall be considered either as resident or transient.

"ART. 3. Resident foreigners are:

"1. Those who have acquired residence in conformity with the provisions of the civil code.

"2. Those who have voluntarily and without interruption resided within the territory for more than two years without diplomatic character.

"2. Those who own real estate within the territory of the Republic and have established permanent residence therein.

"3. Those who have resided in the territory of the Republic for more than two years and are engaged in commercial pursuits or any other kind of industry, provided they have a house established in a permanent way, even though invested with the character of consul.

"TRANSIENT FOREIGNERS.

"ART. 4. Transient foreigners are all such persons as are staying within the territory of the Republic and are not comprised in the sections of the preceding article.

"ART. 5. Resident foreigners are subject to the same obligations as the Venezuelans, both as to their persons and to their properties, but they are not subject to military service nor to the payment of forced and extraordinary war contributions in case of revolution or of internal armed contests.

"ART. 6. Resident and transient foreigners must not participate in the political affairs of the Republic or anything relating to said political affairs. To this end they can not—

"1. Form a part of political societies.

"2. Edit political newspapers or write about the interior or exterior politics of the country in any newspaper.

"3. Fill public office or employment.

"4. Take arms in the domestic contentions of the Republic.

"5. Deliver speeches which in any way relate to the politics of the country.

"ART. 7. Resident foreigners who violate any of the provisions established in article 6 lose their condition of foreigners and become *ipso facto* subject to the responsibilities, burdens, and obligations which might be incumbent on natives through interior political contingency.

"ART. 8. If in violation of the express prohibition of this law any foreigner exercises any public charge without being empowered thereto in conformity with section 22, article 54, of the constitution, his acts are null, and the person elected and the functionary who names him are jointly responsible for the same.

"ART. 9. Transient foreigners who violate the provisions of article 6 shall be immediately expelled from the territory of the Republic.

"PROCEDURE IN CASE OF VIOLATIONS OF THE DECREE.

"ART. 10. The presidents of the States, the governor of the Federal District, and the governors of the Federal Territories, upon becoming aware that any one or more of the resident foreigners having their abode in their respective jurisdictions interfere in the political affairs of the Republic, shall bring proper legal action through the ordinary tribunals, transmitting the proceedings in the cases to the Federal Executive in compliance with the decree to be passed in conformity with the provisions contained in article 7.

"ART. 11. Neither resident nor transient foreigners have any right to resort to diplomatic intervention, except when, having exhausted all legal means before the competent authorities, it clearly appears that there has been a denial of justice or flagrant injustice or evident violation of the principles of international law.

"ART. 12. Resident foreigners, or those who may hereafter become residents, and transient foreigners who are not invested with a diplomatic character, shall be obliged to make a declaration before the first civil authority of the place in which they may be that they completely submit to the provisions of the present law and to those of the decree of the 14th of February, 1873, which established the rules for the indemnization of foreigners. All foreigners who omit to make this declaration shall be expelled from the country within a term to be designated by the National Executive.

"ART. 13. The civil authorities before whom the declaration should be made shall use common paper therefor and shall not make any charge whatsoever. The originals of these documents shall be transmitted to the minister of the interior.

"CONSULS PRECLUDED FROM ENGAGING IN TRADE.

"ART. 14. The national Executive shall not issue exequaturs of consuls or vice-consuls to persons who are engaged in trade.

"ART. 15. The establishment within the country of any societies of any kind whatsoever which have not fixed their headquarters or residence therein is definitely prohibited.

"ART. 16. Foreigners, as well as Venezuelans, have the right to bring claims against the nation for indemnification for loss or damage sustained by them in time of war by the legally constituted civil or military authorities, provided always that the latter be acting in their political character; but they shall be able to make these claims only according to the proceedings established in the interior legislation for the purpose of proving the loss or damage suffered, and also their just value.

"ART. 17. Neither foreigners nor Venezuelans can bring any claim against the Government of Venezuela for loss or damage occasioned by revolutionary agents or armed bands in the service of any revolution, but they shall have the right to institute personal actions against the authors of the damage for the loss suffered.

"ART. 18. The provisions of this law do not affect the agreements contained in public treaties.

"ENROLLMENT OF NAMES OF FOREIGN RESIDENTS.

"ART. 19. The presidents of the States, the governor of the Federal District, and the governors of the Federal Territories shall immediately proceed, on the promulgation of this law, to draw up a list of resident foreigners within the territory who come within their respective jurisdictions, which list they shall duly transmit to the minister of exterior relations.

"ART. 20. Foreigners who should come to the Republic shall, in order to be admitted within its territory, be under the obligation of presenting, before the principal civil authority of the place where they enter, the documents which prove their personal status and a certificate of good conduct issued by the authorities at their last place of residence, which documents shall be in due legal form.

"ART. 21. The national Executive shall regulate the present law.

"ART. 22. The executive decree of the 14th of February, 1873, which determines the rights and duties of foreigners, and the executive decree of the 30th of July, 1897, which treats of the interference of foreigners in the electoral affairs of the country, are hereby repealed."

ADMISSION OF FOREIGNERS INTO VENEZUELA.

In conformity with the powers vested in the Federal Executive by section 24 of article 89 of the constitution, the Government of Venezuela enforced on May 28, 1902, the following decree:

"1. Whereas article 89 of the constitution now in force vests in the Federal Executive 'the power of prohibiting the entry into national territory and of expelling therefrom foreigners who are notoriously prejudicial to public order;' and

"2. Whereas in order to carry that provision into execution it is necessary to know the individuals who enter the country, in the same manner as has been established in other countries for like purposes, the Constitutional President of the United States of Venezuela decrees:

"ARTICLE 1. Foreigners who come to Venezuela shall present to the administrator of the customs of the respective ports a documentary declaration which shall state—

"1. Their given name and surnames and the names of their parents.

"2. Their nationality.

"3. The place and date of their birth.

"4. The place of their last residence.

"5. Their profession and means of livelihood; and

"6. The names, ages, and nationality of wife and minor children, if accompanied by them.

"ART. 2. The administrators of the custom-houses shall immediately telegraph to the national Executive the contents of this declaration, or that it has or has not been presented.

"ART. 3. In case foreigners should not come provided with documents, they may supply them by the testimony of persons of their acquaintance known to be trustworthy.

"ART. 4. Foreigners who have come into the territory of the Republic on and after October 23, 1899, shall present a similar declaration, if in the Federal District, to the governor of that district, and if elsewhere, to the president of the State, if they reside in the capital, and through his subordinate authorities if they are in other localities.

"ART. 5. In the case provided for in the preceding article, the governor of the Federal District and the presidents of the respective States shall inform the Federal Executive of the result, according to articles 2 and 3, in order that he may determine whether he considers the foreigners who have presented unsatisfactory declarations, or who have not complied with the formalities imposed, prejudicial and subject to expulsion.

"All consuls of the Republic shall cause this decree to be published in their respective jurisdictions, translating it from the Spanish in those places where that language is not spoken, and shall send to the Government the newspapers in which it is published.

"ART. 7. Executive decree of May 14, 1894, on this subject, is hereby repealed.

"ART. 8. The ministers of the interior, of foreign affairs, and of finance and public credit are charged with the execution of this decree."

• GUARANTIES.

The nation guarantees to Venezuelans the following rights:

1. Inviolability of life, capital punishment being abolished.

2. Property, which will only be subject to the direct taxes decreed by the legislative authority in conformity with the constitution and to condemnation for public use after previous indemnification under regular proceedings.

3. Inviolability of correspondence and other private papers, which can only be seized by order of the proper judicial authority according to established formalities respecting the secrecy of domestic and private papers.

4. Inviolability of the domestic dwelling, which shall not be trespassed except to prevent the perpetration of a crime, in accordance with the provisions of law.

5. Individual liberty, and therefore: (1) Conscription for armed service is abolished; (2) slavery is forever proscribed; (3) slaves that may tread the soil of Venezuela are free; (4) all can do or perform what does not injure others, and (5) nobody is obliged to do what is not prescribed by law nor prevented from doing what it does not prohibit.

6. Freedom of thought, expressed by word or through the press. In cases of libel the aggrieved party can sue for damages according to law.

7. Liberty of transit without passport and of change of residence on observing the legal formalities.

8. Liberty of industry, the law granting temporary privileges to authors of discoveries and products and to those who establish a new unexploited industry in the country.

9. Liberty of meeting or association without arms, publicly or privately, without coercion from the authorities.

10. Liberty of petition with any official, authority, or corporation who are bound to give a prompt resolution. If this petition is signed by several persons the first five shall answer for the authenticity of the signatures and all for the veracity of the facts set forth.

11. The liberty of suffrage without other restrictions than those established by this constitution and the laws.

12. Liberty of teaching, which will be protected in every sense.

13. Religious liberty according to the laws and under the supreme inspection of the President of the Republic.

14. Individual or personal security, and therefore: (1) No Venezuelan can be imprisoned or arrested for debts unless in punishment for fraud or crime; (2) nor to be tried by special tribunals or commissions, but by his natural judges and according to preexisting laws; (3) nor to be imprisoned or arrested without previous summary information of having committed a crime deserving corporal punishment and a written order from the official directing the imprisonment, stating the nature thereof, unless the person is caught in the act of perpetrating a crime; (4) nor be deprived of communication for any reason; (5) nor be obliged to take oath or give evidence in a criminal action brought against himself or his relatives within the fourth degree of consanguinity, second of affinity, nor against his or her consort; (6) nor to continue imprisoned if causes therefor have been destroyed; (7) nor to be condemned to suffer punishment in criminal matters except after having been summoned and heard legally; (8) nor to be condemned to corporal punishment for over fifteen years.

15. Equality, and therefore: (1) All must be tried by the same laws and are subject to equal duties, services, and taxes; (2) no titles of nobility, honors, and hereditary distinction will be granted, nor employ-

ments or offices, the salaries or emoluments of which shall last beyond the termination of the service; (3) no other official treatment than "Citizen" and "You" will be given to employees and corporations. (Const., art. 17.) The States have power to grant other rights to their inhabitants. (Const., art. 18.)

Punishment for violation of guaranties.—Those who violate or in any manner infringe upon the guaranties granted to Venezuelans are guilty, and punishment must be inflicted according to the law, and any citizen may bring an action against them. (Const., art. 20.)

Laws regulating rights and guaranties.—These laws shall not impair or weaken foregoing rights and guaranties. (Const., art. 21.)

National sovereignty.—Sovereignty is essentially vested in the people, who exercise it through the public powers. (Const., art. 22.)

Limitation of authority.—The definition of duties and prerogatives establishes the limit of public power; therefore all usurpatory acts and decisions are null and void. (Const., arts. 23 and 24.)

The government of the union shall ever be republican, federal, democratic, elective, representative, alternative, and responsible, and the exercise of sovereignty implies individual responsibility for transgression of vested authority. Public power is distributed between the Federal power and the power of the States. (Const., 26 to 28.)

Law of nations forms part of legislation.—The law of nations forms part of the national legislation, but it can not be invoked against the constitution and laws of the Republic. (Const., art. 125.)

Amendments to constitution.—Congress, in ordinary session, can decree amendments or additions to the constitution, provided they are proposed by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several States in ordinary session, but said amendments or additions can only be enforced after they are ratified by the legislatures. Congress may likewise take the initiative in amendments or additions with the formalities established by law. (Const., arts. 127 to 131.)

LAWs.

According to the organic law of the departments, that of interior relations has charge of the annual compilation and codification of laws, decrees, resolutions, and sentences. There exist 22 volumes containing the "Compilation of the laws and decrees of Venezuela," and the absolute majority of these laws are in codified form. Under this heading may be included the national constitution and those of the States of the union.

Codes.—The codes—civil, criminal, and commercial—are the following: Civil Code, Code of Civil Procedure, Penal Code, Code of Criminal Procedure, Code of Commerce.

CIVIL LAW.

Civil law is ruled by the new civil code and by that of procedure, both enacted on April 19, 1904.

The laws of the United States of Venezuela are binding upon all persons residing within its limits, whether national citizens or foreigners. (Civil Code, art. 6.)

No law is binding before it is promulgated, nor is ignorance of the law an excuse for not fulfilling it. (Civil Code, arts. 1 and 2.)

No retroactive effect.—Laws have no retroactive effect. They can not be renounced in general or by private compact, nor can they be repealed but by other laws. (Civil Code, arts. 3 to 5.)

Possession of property.—Real or personal estate within Venezuelan territory, although possessed by foreigners, is ruled by Venezuelan legislation. (Civil Code, art. 8.)

Official language.—The official and legal language is Spanish, and no other language can be used in the business of public offices or in books of accounts of merchants, bankers, traders, and industrial concerns. (Civil Code, art. 11.)

Civil courts.—In the civil courts of Venezuela all persons are considered equal before the law. The national courts, those of the States, and those of the Federal District are obliged to administer justice as well to natural-born citizens as to aliens, be they residents or transients, provided said tribunals are competent to pass judgment on the respective matter according to the code and organic laws. (Code Civ. Pro., arts. 1 and 2.)

Trials.—Foreigners can not occupy the position of permanent judge or member of any court of law in Venezuela, and any person being a party in a case the interest of which is beyond \$800 is entitled to be tried, in all instances of law, by a collegiate court, whose decisive or interlocutory sentence shall be final. (Code Civ. Pro., arts. 3 and 4.)

Application of laws.—In the application of fundamental laws judges shall give preference to the provisions of the Civil Code, and in applying the precepts of private international law they shall first take into account public treaties of Venezuela with the respective nation. In default of them they shall apply national legislation, and, lastly, the principles of said law generally accepted. If on appeal the second sentence is wholly in conformity with the essential part of the first, there will be no third instance of appeal, unless there is disagreement regarding costs, but in no case shall a trial be instituted in the fourth instance. (Code Civ. Pro., arts. 6 to 31.)

Justice.—Justice is imparted "in the name of the United States of Venezuela," and letters rogatory, when issued, shall also be thus headed and are sent abroad either through the diplomatic or consular officers. (Code Civ. Pro., arts. 33-35.)

Responsibility of judges.—Judicial officials are responsible for the offenses or crimes they may commit in the exercise of their functions, and in a civil suit the parties can appear either personally or be legally represented. (Code Civ. Pro., art. 36.)

CRIMINAL LAW.

Crimes and offenses are “punished according to the Penal Code” and that of Procedure, both declared in force on April 19, 1904.

No punishment shall be inflicted unless for a crime or offense expressly stated in the law. Criminal legislation has retroactive force when favorable for the indicted or accused. (Penal Code, arts. 4–5.)

Criminal prosecution.—Any person infringing the laws of Venezuela within its territory is liable to punishment according to Venezuelan law. (Art. 8.)

Foreign subjects or citizens who have come to Venezuela and who in a foreign country have committed a crime against the security of the Republic or any of its citizens. (Art. 19, sec. 2.)

Venezuelans and foreigners who may make or introduce from abroad into Venezuelan territory counterfeit money, currency, or bonds of the Republic, and are arrested in Venezuela. (Art. 19, sec. 10.)

Foreigners who may enter ports or other places not open to commerce, or violate quarantine or other sanitary laws. (Arts. 13–14.)

Venezuelans are not extradited.—Venezuelans shall in no case be extradited, but shall be prosecuted and tried in Venezuela, if for the crime imputed they are amenable to law according to Venezuelan legislation. (Art. 20.)

Foreigners, when extraditable.—Foreigners shall not be extradited for political crimes nor for any act which is not considered a crime according to Venezuelan law. (Art. 20, sec. 1.)

Foreigners shall be extraditable for common crimes according to the provisions of the law and public treaties, provided no capital punishment is to be inflicted.^a (Art. 20, secs. 2–3.)

Penalties for crimes.—There are several kinds of crimes described in Titles I to X of book second of the Penal Code. The penalties for crimes are: Penitentiary, (partly) solitary confinement with hard labor (ten to fifteen years); penitentiary, open confinement (three to twelve years); imprisonment (three days to five years); expulsion, criminal fine, and disqualifications for the exercise of public functions for a term equal to the imprisonment after the expiration of the penalty.

Penalties for offenses.—The penalties for offenses are corporal or noncorporal. The first are penitentiary open or closed confinement, arrest, etc. The second are correctional fine, suspension of office or

^a Death penalty abolished in Venezuela since April 3, 1849.

from the exercise of a profession, industry, or charge. There are principal and accessory offenses. (Arts. 49-53.)

Offenses against public order.—Those who disobey orders legally issued by competent authority in the interest of justice or public security are liable to imprisonment from five to thirty days, or to a correctional fine of \$4 to \$30. (Penal Code, art. 440.)

Those who, in cases of mobs, calamities, or flagrant contravention, refuse, without just motive, to give assistance or help, and those who withhold information to officials on duty shall be fined from \$2 to \$10, and if the information supplied is willfully wrong, \$10 to \$30. (Penal Code, art. 441.)

Persons who, on being examined by a public functionary discharging his duty, give a wrong name, profession, birthplace, or residence, shall be fined \$2 to \$8. If the information supplied is willfully wrong, \$10 to \$50. (Penal Code, art. 442.)

COMMERCIAL LAW.

The Code of Commerce, promulgated on April 19, 1904, establishes the duties of merchants regarding their commercial transactions.

Acts of commerce.—Acts of commerce are the purchase or exchange of personal property with intent to resell, exchange, or lease them; the purchase or sale of a business concern or stock of a commercial company; the renting of personal property; commission or commercial mandate; manufactures, stores, hotels, and similar enterprises; land and water transportation; warehouse deposits, mercantile agencies, actions and shows; insurance of merchandise; letters of exchange, drafts, banking, brokerage, stock exchange operations, shipbuilding, purchase and sale of ships, and all contracts arising from maritime or fluvial navigation.

Merchants.—All persons who are legally capable, can carry on commerce. A commercial register or record is kept in the Tribunals of Commerce, where all persons who desire to establish a wholesale business establishment are inscribed according to the respective provisions of the law. Captains of ships have also to be inscribed in the respective jurisdiction. Accounts must be kept in books in the prescribed form in the Spanish language, and all correspondence must be properly filed. Books kept in due form can be furnished as proof, and only in the course of the trial of a case can a judge decree the inspection of any merchants' books.

Companies.—The law acknowledges three kinds of commercial companies, namely: (1) Firms—that is to say, companies of a collective name and whose partners are conjointly responsible; (2) simple or stock companies, with both individually responsible and silent partners; (3) joint stock companies, which must not consist of less than seven partners. These three kinds of companies constitute juridic

persons, which are distinct in that which regards the personality of the partners. The law likewise acknowledges the existence of accidental companies. Contracts of partnership must be in the form of public or private documents.

Commercial contracts.—These contracts can be proved by public and private documents, by abstracts from brokers' books duly signed, by the brokers' books when parties agree in the existence of the contract, by accepted invoices, by the books of the contracting parties if kept in due form, by declaration of witnesses, and by whatever other means admitted by civil law.

Commercial jurisdiction.—Tribunals of commerce are established by competent authorities, but where there is none ordinary courts of justice exercise commercial jurisdiction. In important mercantile centers the competent authority may establish special tribunals of commerce to try cases in the first instance. Tribunals of commerce are competent to try all controversies regarding acts of commerce, and especially bills of exchange, drafts, checks, etc.; actions brought against captains of ships and merchants' clerks; actions against managers of shows, and everything concerning the bankruptcy of merchants according to the provisions of the Code of Commerce. The procedure of common courts of law is observed in mercantile matters unless otherwise provided in the Code of Commerce.

FOREIGN COMPANIES.

Section 4 of the Code of Commerce (April 19, 1904) contains the provisions to which foreign companies are subject in Venezuela, the full text of which is as follows:

Conditions.—Foreign companies may do business in Venezuela and appear in court, either as plaintiffs or as defendants, but they shall be subject to the legal provisions governing nonresidents. (Art. 293.)

Registration of companies.—Foreign companies desiring to establish agencies, branches, or exploitations in Venezuela, be they simple partnership or limited capital companies, shall comply with the same provisions established for national companies, and if they be limited stock companies they shall register in the commercial registry office of the place where their agency or exploitation is situated, and publish in a paper of the same locality the contract of partnership and other documents necessary for the formation of companies, in accordance with the laws of their nationality, as well as an authenticated copy of the articles referring to said laws. They shall also forward a copy of their by-laws to be filed at the registry office. (Art. 294.)

Any alterations made to the contract of partnership or to the by-laws shall likewise be registered and published in the manner set forth in the preceding article. (Art. 295.)

Representation.—Foreign companies having exploitations, agencies, or branches in Venezuela shall have a representative in the Republic holding full power of attorney within the limits of their concessions and titles. (Art. 296.)

Assessment.—Any foreign assurance company, in order to be able to carry on business in Venezuela, must own real estate, free from all incumbrance, in the country, of such a value as the National Executive shall decide in each case, in accordance with the importance of the company and of the business it may transact. This value shall not be less than 600,000 bolivars for life insurance companies, or 200,000 bolivars for other companies, and it may be made to equal 25 per cent of the sums insured by such companies in the country. (Art. 297.)

Penalties.—The failure to comply with the provisions set forth in article 294 regarding the formation of companies shall render the administrators, agents, representatives or others who may contract in their name, personally and collectively, liable for all obligations contracted in the country, without prejudice to the rights of third parties to take action against the company.

Those who may contract in the name of assurance companies that have not fulfilled all legal requisites shall furthermore be liable to a fine of from 1,000 to 10,000 bolivars or proportionate imprisonment. (Art. 298.)

Venezuelan jurisdiction.—The jurisdiction corresponding to Venezuelan courts, according to the laws of Venezuela governing assurance contracts made by foreign companies, can in no case be renounced. (Art. 299.)

Foreign companies already having agencies, branches, or exploitations in Venezuela shall comply with the provisions of article 294 within six months from the date of promulgation of this code.

Assurance companies shall carry out the dispositions contained in article 297 within the same term. (Art. 300.)

BANKRUPTCY.

A merchant who ceases to meet his commercial obligations finds himself in a state of bankruptcy. (Art. 870.)

There are three kinds of bankruptcy, viz: Casual, culpable, and fraudulent.

Casual bankruptcy arises from contingent cases or main force.

Culpable bankruptcy is due to imprudent or dissipated conduct on the part of the bankrupt.

Fraudulent bankruptcy is that which is caused by fraudulent acts of the bankrupt. (Art. 871.)

Culpability of bankrupts.—Bankruptcy is declared culpable in the following cases:

1. When the personal and domestic expenses of the bankrupt have been excessive.

2. When the bankrupt has lost considerable sums at gambling, in fictitious stock exchange operations, or others of pure hazard.

3. When he has undersold goods, contracted exorbitant obligations, or employed ruinous methods to procure funds, all of which obligations could but delay the declaration in bankruptcy.

4. When, after having ceased in his payments, he has paid any of the creditors in detriment to the rest. (Art. 757.)

Bankruptcy may be declared culpable:

1. When the bankrupt has given security or contracted, for someone else, excessive obligations.

2. When he incurs a new bankruptcy without having fulfilled the previous agreement.

3. When the necessary documents have not been entered in the commercial register.

4. When he has omitted to file in the tribunal of commerce his declaration of bankruptcy.

5. When he does not appear before the assignees or the judge when so prescribed by law.

6. When he has not kept the proper books or correspondence nor made inventories, or when any of them are incomplete or defective, without the commission of fraud. (Art. 758.)

Bankruptcy is declared fraudulent: When the bankrupt has suppressed, forged, mutilated his books, or has subtracted or hidden the whole or part of his assets, or when he has been found to be fraudulent by his books or notes, or by public or private documents. (Art. 759.)

Culpable and fraudulent bankruptcies shall be punished in accordance with the Penal Code. (Art. 873.)

When a stock company is declared bankrupt the promoters and managers shall be punished as culpable bankrupts when they have not observed the prescribed formalities or when through their fault the company goes bankrupt.

They shall be punished as fraudulent bankrupts:

1. When, with intent to deceive, they have not published the articles of association of the company as prescribed by law.

2. When they have made a false declaration of the subscribed or paid-up capital.

3. When they have paid false dividends, which have diminished the capital.

4. When, through deceit or fraudulent operations, they have caused the company to become bankrupt. (Art. 876.)

Shall be punished as fraudulent bankrupts:

1. Those who knowingly, and in the interest of the bankrupt, have subtracted or hidden any part of or all the latter's assets.

2. Those convicted of having presented in a fraudulent manner supposed claims, or who have altered the nature or date of the claim to attain ranking in detriment of the other creditors.

3. Those who have carried on commerce under a supposed or someone else's name and are guilty of facts expressed as fraudulent in this code. (Art. 877.)

The husband or wife, descendants or ascendants by blood or marriage of the bankrupt, who withdraw or withhold property belonging to the bankrupt without the former's complicity shall be punished as guilty of theft. (Art. 878.)

The tribunal is competent to decree the restitution to the bulk of assets all the property, rights, and actions intended to have been withheld, and to pass judgment on the claims for damages. (Art. 879.)

An ordinary criminal court of law, on request of the judge of the tribunal of commerce or of the receivers or of any of these representing an individual majority of creditors, shall declare whether the bankrupt is culpable or fraudulent. (Art. 880.)

Declarations of bankruptcy.—Any merchant who is in a state of bankruptcy shall declare it before the judge of the tribunal of commerce of his place of residence within three days after having ceased in his payments.

In the case of a firm or company the declaration shall include the names and addresses of the partners conjointly responsible or of the silent partners who have not paid up their capital. In the case of a joint stock company the managers shall draw up the declaration, and are bound to appear before the receivers when so requested. (Art. 881.)

The declaration of bankruptcy shall include:

1. A general balance sheet, or an explanation of the causes which prevent its presentation.

2. A full report of the causes of the bankruptcy. (Art. 882.)

The balance sheet shall contain an itemized statement of all the personal and real estate, all the debits and credits, expenses, and profits and losses, the latter three items for ten years back. (Art. 883.)

Judicial declaration of bankruptcies.—The formal declaration of bankruptcy is made by the judge of the tribunal of commerce, and a deceased merchant may also be declared a bankrupt if when he died he had ceased in his payments. (Arts. 884-885.)

A silent partner can not demand a declaration in bankruptcy unless he is a creditor, nor can a father and son, or husband and wife, who are creditors one from the other demand against one another the declaration in bankruptcy. (Arts. 889-890.)

Assignments.—The official declaration of bankruptcy carries with it (1) the appointment of one or more receivers; (2) retention from the

bankrupt of his correspondence, books, and documents; (3) letters addressed to the bankrupt shall be handed over to the receiver; (4) prohibition to make any payment to the bankrupt and order to all persons in possession of goods or documents of the bankrupt to deliver them to the tribunal of commerce within three days; (5) order to call a meeting of presumable creditors; (6) order acquainting creditors residing in Venezuela when such meeting is to take place; (7) order informing creditors residing abroad of the lapse of time granted for presenting their claims; (8) order to publish the declaration of bankruptcy and the prohibition comprised in No. 4; and (9) order to remit without delay a copy of the state of the case to the competent judge in case of criminal proceedings. (Art. 894.)

Arrest of bankrupts.—In cases of culpable or fraudulent bankruptcy the judge may decree the provisional arrest of the bankrupt, but the latter may retain his liberty on proper bail being furnished and accepted. He may also obtain provisionally for himself and his family means of subsistence decreed by the judge conjointly with the receivers. (Arts. 905–907.)

On the same day that the bankruptcy is declared the judge of commerce shall call personally or by means of a representative at the residence of all the establishments of the bankrupt, shall seal them and take charge of the keys. The inventory shall be drawn up by the receivers before two witnesses. (Arts. 908–913.)

Appointment of receivers.—Receivers are appointed either to be provisional or permanent; they can not act but conjointly, and are not admitted to perform their duties but after proper qualification and having been duly sworn in. (Arts. 924–927.)

Duties of receivers.—Receivers represent the bulk of creditors actively and passively in the trial or outside it, administer the property and goods on which injunction has been awarded, perform all that is necessary for the security of the rights of and the collection of moneys due to the bankruptcy, and finally liquidate it according to the provisions of the Code of Commerce. (Art. 928.)

Receivers shall summon the bankrupt to give information, close the books, and draw up the balance sheet, and the bankrupt when not under arrest may appear personally or be represented when the court allows it, and when under arrest he shall be conducted to the place where the examination of the books is made. (Arts. 929–937.)

Permanent receivers shall file with the judge, within fifteen days of having been sworn in, a report of the business of the bankrupt and his books, and express an opinion regarding the order under which the bankruptcy should be classed. (Art. 938.)

Ranking of creditors.—As soon as the bankruptcy is declared, the creditors can file with the tribunal a petition of classification of their claims according to the law. At the first meeting of creditors a gen-

eral meeting is decided to be held for the classification of creditors. After all the debts have been classified another meeting is called to ascertain whether a composition arrangement can be effected. (Arts. 953-964.)

Compositions.—Composition once approved is binding; the tribunal may then declare the bankrupt excused and receivers render an account of their administration to the tribunal, cease in their functions, and turn over in due form all the property to the bankrupt. (Arts. 965-976.)

Composition disapproved.—Composition may be disapproved when the bankrupt is culpable or fraudulent, when the majority of creditors or debts are proved false, and when all the legal formalities have not been observed. (Art. 977.)

Composition annulled.—Composition is only annulled when the bankrupt is subsequently condemned as fraudulent, or after the approval of the composition it is established that the bankrupt has withheld or concealed the exact condition of his active and passive assets. (Arts. 985-990.)

Liquidation in bankruptcy.—On a declaration of bankruptcy stock must be taken and the inventory of balance sheet must contain all the particulars prescribed by law, and if there is no composition the liquidating receiver must liquidate the goods and properties of the bankrupt by sale at public auction or by private sale, for the latter course a special license of the judge being required. (Arts. 995-1004.)

Appeal against sentences.—There is no appeal against the sentences passed by the judge of commerce regarding the administration of the bankruptcy, but in the cases expressly determined by law and the rules established by the Code of Commerce shall be followed for appeals against interlocutory or final sentences. (Arts. 1016-1018.)

Discharge of bankrupts.—If the assets of the estate are sufficient to pay all creditors in full, the court shall give an official discharge to the bankrupt. The petition for such discharge must be accompanied by the documents of his solvency. In case of a "culpable" bankruptcy the bankrupt may obtain his discharge after having served his sentence. (Arts. 1020-1025.)

OTHER CODES.

The other codes in force in Venezuela are the following: Codes of finance, public instruction, medical jurisprudence, elections, mines, printing, police, military and naval codes, organic codes of the Federal Territories, of the courts of law, and of the courts of law of the Federal district.

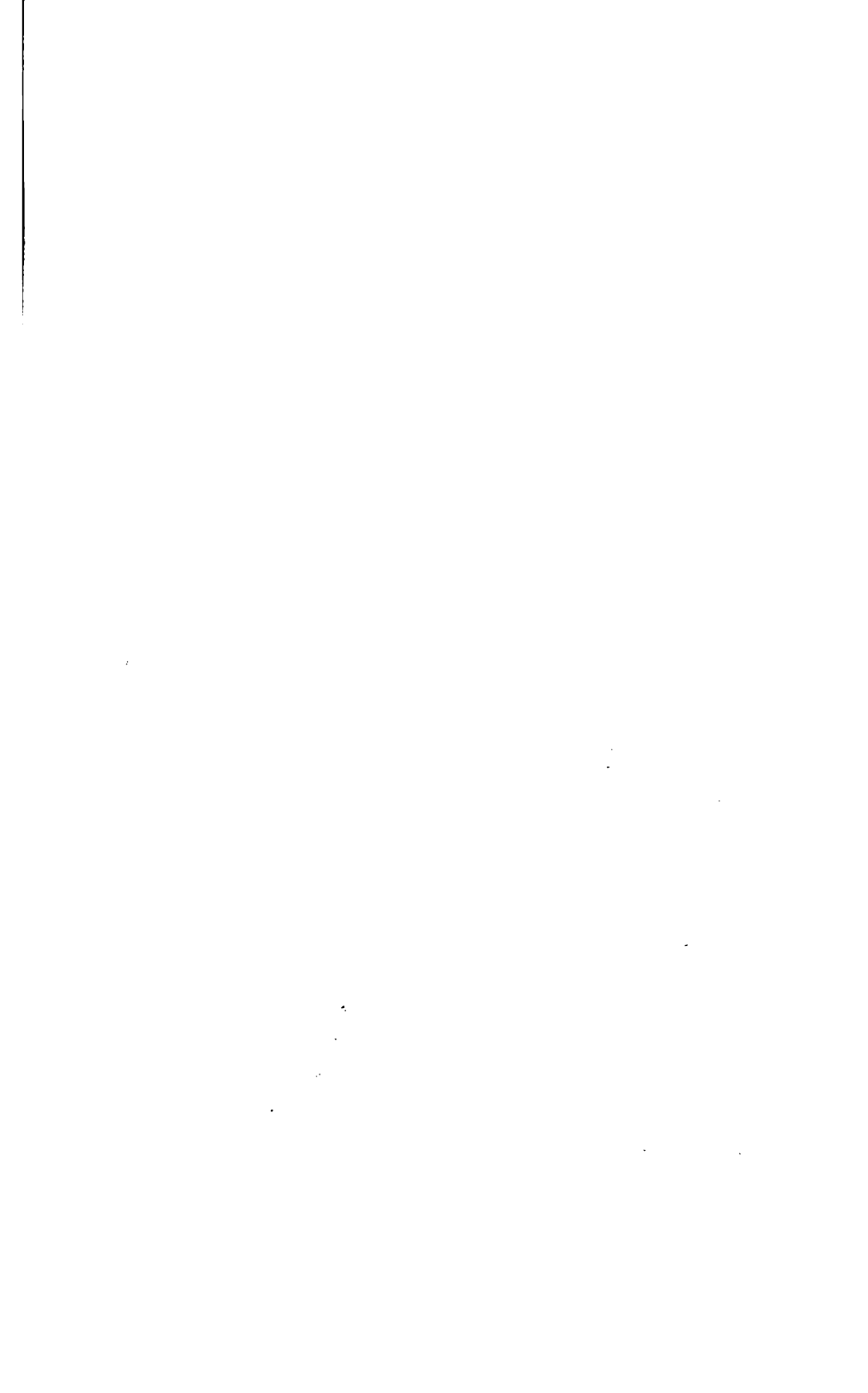
RELIGION.

The national church of Venezuela is the Roman Catholic, but for over fifty years (February 18, 1854) liberty of religion has existed.



CATHEDRAL, CARACAS.

(Courtesy of the Venezuelan Government.)



Liberty of religion guaranteed.—This liberty is now guaranteed by article 17, section 13, of the present constitution, and is under the supreme inspection of the President of the Republic.

The State contributes to the support of the Roman Catholic religion, builds churches, pays the clergy, etc.

Ecclesiastic patronate.—The State controls the ecclesiastical appointments, and forbids or permits the passage of all decrees of the Holy See, according to the law of ecclesiastic patronate of 1824, passed when Venezuela had not yet separated from Greater Colombia, and declared in force by the Venezuelan Congress on March 24, 1832.

In the present constitution article 111 refers to ecclesiastic patronate in the following terms: "The nation being in possession of the right of patronate shall exercise it as determined in the law of July 28, 1824."

Foreign ministers of any religion debarred from entering Venezuela.—The Federal Executive has power, according to article 80, section 23, of the constitution, "to prohibit and prevent the ingress into the territory of the Republic of foreigners especially devoted to the service of any worship or religion, no matter what their order or rank may be."

Ecclesiastic jurisdiction.—Ecclesiastical jurisdiction is exercised in Venezuela through one archbishopric and four bishoprics. Caracas was erected an archbishopric over one hundred years ago (1804). Before this date the bishoprics and the dates of their erection were as follows: Bishopric of Caracas, June 21, 1531; of Mérida, February 17, 1775; of Guayana, May 29, 1790; of Barquisimeto, May 7, 1847; of Guárico, May 7, 1847.

Dioceses, parishes, and churches.—The table below gives the number of dioceses, civil parishes, churches, archbishop, and bishops existing in the Republic in 1889:

Diocese (1889).	Civil parishes.	Churches	Arch-bishop.	Bishops.
Caracas.....	116	99	1	.....
Mérida.....	138	124	.....	1
Guayana.....	168	120	.....	1
Barquisimeto.....	165	140	.....	1
Guárico.....	72	74	.....	1
Total.....	639	567	1	4

Bishops and archbishops (1535-1904).—The table below gives the names of the bishops and archbishops from 1535 to 1904:

1. Don Rodrigo de las Bastidas, elected in	1535
2. Don Miguel Gerónimo Ballesteros	1543
3. Don Frai Pedro de Agreda.....	1568
4. Don Frai Juan Manianillo.....	1582
5. Don Frai Diego Salinas.....	1600
6. Don Frai Pedro Martín Palomino.....	1601
7. Don Frai Pedro de Ona	1601

8. Don Frai Antonio de Alcega.....	1604
9. Don Frai Juan de Bohorques.....	1610
10. Don Frai Gonzalo de Angulo.....	1617
11. Don Juan López Agurto de la Mata.....	1634
12. Don Frai Mauro de Tovar.....	1639
13. Don Frai Alonso Briceño.....	1659
14. Don Frai Antonio González de Acuña.....	1676
15. Dr. Don Diego de Baños y Sotomayor.....	1684
16. Don Frai Francisco del Rincón.....	1711
17. Don Juan José de Escalona y Calatayud.....	1719
18. Don José Félix Valverde.....	1731
19. Don Juan García Padiano.....	1742
20. Don Manuel Bretón.....	1749
21. Don Manuel Machado y Luna.....	1750
22. Don Francisco Julián Antolino.....	1753
23. Don Miguel Argüelles.....	1756
24. Don Diego Antonio Díaz Madroñero.....	1757
25. Don Mariano Martí.....	1770
26. Don Juan Antonio Viana.....	1792
27. Don Francisco Ibarra, first archbishop, in 1804.....	1798
28. Don Narciso Coll y Prat, archbishop.....	1807
29. Dr. Ramón Ignacio Méndez, archbishop.....	1828
30. Dr. Ignacio Fernández Peña, archbishop.....	1840
31. Dr. Silvestre Guevara y Lira, archbishop.....	1853
32. Dr. José Antonio Ponte, archbishop, elected November 30.....	1873
33. Dr. Crispulo Uzcátegui, archbishop, elected February 22.....	1885
34. Dr. Juan B. Castro, appointed coadjutor.....	1904

Different religions in 1894.—The following table shows the different religions into which the inhabitants of the Republic were divided in 1894:

Federal District and State.	Roman Catholics.			Protestants.			Jews.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Federal District.....	40,663	48,895	89,558	397	201	598	147	49	196
Andes (Los).....	178,157	185,220	363,377	10	.....	10	1	.....	1
Bermúdez.....	159,864	162,292	322,156	111	44	155	23	10	33
Bolívar.....	67,965	60,288	128,253	1,324	547	1,871	3	7	10
Carabobo.....	108,090	107,265	215,355	141	97	238	37	17	54
Falcón.....	66,693	74,639	141,332	185	63	248	53	43	96
Lara.....	125,546	136,792	262,338	65	8	73	.....	.....	.....
Miranda.....	244,812	261,694	506,506	129	79	208	17	5	22
Zamora.....	129,486	123,925	253,410	7	1	8	.....	.....	.....
Zulia.....	75,117	82,577	157,694	79	27	106	.....	.....	.....
Total.....	1,191,392	1,243,592	2,434,984	2,448	1,067	5,515	281	130	411

Federal District and State.	Other religions.			Total.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Federal District.....	474	183	657	41,681	49,278	90,959
Andes (Los).....	.....	.....	.....	178,168	185,220	363,388
Bermúdez.....	132	87	219	160,130	162,368	322,498
Bolívar.....	2,821	2,777	5,598	71,613	63,619	135,232
Carabobo.....	11	7	18	103,279	107,366	210,645
Falcón.....	10	4	14	66,941	74,743	141,684
Lara.....	.....	.....	.....	125,611	136,800	262,411
Miranda.....	.....	.....	.....	244,956	261,778	506,734
Zamora.....	.....	.....	.....	129,492	123,926	253,418
Zulia.....	.....	.....	.....	75,196	82,604	157,800
Total.....	2,948	2,958	5,906	1,197,069	1,241,747	2,438,816

External display of worship.—External display of worship is subject to the following provisions of the Penal Code, and any violation of them is classed among the offenses “against public order.”

Article 443 of said code provides that:

“All persons who in violation of a legal prohibition by the proper authority have promoted or conducted religious ceremonies outside the proper place of worship, or promoted or conducted processions of a civil or religious character on public squares, streets, or other public thoroughfares, shall be amenable to a fine of from \$4 to \$20, or arrest for thirty days.”

And article 444 reads as follows:

“The minister of any worship who has conducted religious ceremonies of outward display in violation of provisions legally established by the proper authority shall be imprisoned from one to two months or fined from \$10 to \$150.”

All matters relating to ecclesiastical patronage, religion, and public worship in general come under the administrative direction of the interior relations department of Venezuela.

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CHAPTER III.

TERRITORIAL DIVISIONS—FEDERAL DISTRICTS: CARACAS, LA GUAIRA, PETARE, ISLAND OF MARGARITA.

TERRITORIAL DIVISIONS.

In the sixteenth century.—The first territorial division dates from 1508, when Don Fernando de Aragón authorized Ojeda and Nicuesa to divide among themselves all the main coast from Cape La Vela to Cape Gracias á Dios. Charles V granted the Welsars the right to conquer and populate the portion of territory comprised between capes Maracapaná and La Vela in 1528. They had authority to appoint governors. The Territories of Guayana, Cumaná, and dependencies which constituted New Andalucia, formed part, in 1591, of the vice-royalty of the new Kingdom of Granada.

In the seventeenth century.—The districts of Maracaibo passed, in 1678, to the same viceroyalty on its union with Mérida.

In the eighteenth century.—The audience of Santa Fé was established in 1718, with jurisdiction in the Caracas provinces and dependencies. The government of Caracas was raised, in 1731, to the rank of a captaincy-general, to which were added, in 1777, Maracaibo, Cumaná, Barcelona, Guayana, and the islands of Margarita and Trinidad, and, in 1786, the province of Barinas. The island of Trinidad was occupied in 1797 and since then retained by the English.

In the nineteenth century.—The fundamental law of Colombia divided the Republic into three great departments, namely, Quito, Cundinamarca, and Venezuela, which were under the authority of chiefs called vice-presidents. The congress of Mérida, in 1821, made of the three sections one single republic with twelve departments. Venezuela contained three, viz, Orinoco, Venezuela, and Zulía. When greater Colombia was dissolved the territory reverted to its three former divisions. Venezuela was subdivided into 13 provinces, with 88 municipal districts and 523 parishes.

Present division.—At present the constitution establishes that the territory of the United States of Venezuela is the same as that which, in 1810, corresponded to the captaincy-general of Venezuela, with such modifications as may result from public treaties. (Const., art. 1.)

Districts.—The territory of the United States of Venezuela is divided into districts and Federal territories. (Const., art. 2.)

The States of the Union.—The districts which compose the Venezuelan Federation are grouped to form the States of Aragua, Bermúdez, Bolívar, Carabobo, Falcón, Guárico, Lara, Mérida, Miranda, Táchira, Trujillo, Zamora, and Zulia. (Const., art. 3.)

Boundaries of States.—The boundaries of the States shall be determined by the State laws on territorial division. (Const., art. 2.) Controversies in regard to limits between States shall be decided by an arbitration tribunal of the free appointment of the Federal executive. (Const., art. 126.)

Federal Territories.—The Federal Territories are five in number, viz, Amazonas, Cristóbal Colón, Colón, Delta-Amacuro, and Yuruari. (Const., art. 4.)

The Federal District.—The Federal District shall be organized by a special law, and consists of the Libertador, Vargas Guaicaipuro, and Sucre departments, and of the island of Margarita. The seat of the Federal Government is the Libertador department of the Federal District, but the executive power may establish its transitory residence in any other part of the Federal District when required by unforeseen circumstances. (Const., art. 5.)

The Departments compose the western section of the Federal District and Margarita the eastern. The former consist of 31 parishes divided as follows: Libertador Department 13, Vargas 6, Sucre 4, and Guaicaipuro 8. The population of this section of the Republic was 173,000 inhabitants according to the census of 1891, and the whole Federal District may be estimated to have now a total population of over 235,000 inhabitants.

Libertador Department comprises the city of Caracas and the towns of Antímano, El Valle, La Vega, Macarao, and El Recreo.

Vargas Department: La Guaira, Maiquetía, Macuto, Caraballeda, Naiguatá, and Carayaca.

Sucre Department: Petare, Chacao, Baruta, and El Hatillo.

Guaicaipuro Department: Los Teques, Miquilén, Carrizal, San Pedro, San Diego, San Antonio, Táchata, and Paracotos.

Margarita Island comprises the whole territory of the island, the chief city of which is Asunción, and the towns of Porlamar, Juan Griego, and other of lesser importance.

CITY OF CARACAS.

The city of Caracas is the capital of Venezuela. It lies 17 kilometers to the south of, and 922 meters above, the level of the Caribbean Sea. It is located in the valley of Caracas, which is some 17 kilometers long from east to west and 5 kilometers wide, and sur-

rounded by the lofty peaks of the Coast Range Mountains, through which valley flows to the eastward the Guaire River.

Foundation of Caracas.—The city was founded in 1567 by Diego de Lozada, who called it Santiago de Leon.

Situation.—Caracas is situated $67^{\circ} 4' 45''$ west of the Greenwich meridian and $69^{\circ} 25'$ west of the Paris meridian.

Temperature.—The temperature of Caracas, although it is located in the torrid zone, is that of perpetual spring, due to its altitude of 922 meters above the level of the sea. The maximum temperature of Caracas is 82° F. (28° C.) and the minimum (in December, January, and February), 48° F. (9° C.). The average temperature is therefore 68° F. (19° C.).

Climate.—On account of the mildness of the temperature the climate and atmospheric conditions are exceptionally good.

Area and plan of city.—The city covers an area of 4,272 square kilometers, and is laid out in squares intersected at right angles.

Population of Caracas from 1580 to 1881.—The following table gives the population of Caracas in three hundred and one years:

	Inhabitants.
Spanish census, 1580.....	2, 000
Spanish census, 1696.....	6, 000
Marti, 1771.....	18, 669
Estimated, 1778.....	32, 000
Count Segur, 1783.....	20, 000
Spanish census, 1796.....	35, 000
Humboldt, 1800.....	40, 000
Depons, 1802.....	42, 000
Díaz, 1805.....	35, 000
Lavaise, 1807.....	47, 228
Lavaise, 1810.....	50, 000
Semple, 1812.....	42, 000
Palacios, 1812.....	45, 000
Humboldt, 1812.....	50, 000
Estimated, 1816 to 1820.....	21, 000
Sanavria, 1825.....	29, 846
Codazzi, 1829.....	29, 320
Estimated, 1830.....	30, 000
Sanavria, 1847.....	34, 165
Census, 1869.....	47, 013
First official census, 1873.....	48, 897
Second official census, 1881.....	55, 638

As shown in the foregoing table, in 1810 Caracas had 50,000 inhabitants, and seventy-one years later, in 1881, it had but 55,638, because the city was almost totally destroyed by an earthquake in 1812, and was plundered and depopulated by the Spanish forces during the years from 1813 to 1821.

Population in 1891.—According to the census of that year, exclusive of parishes, Caracas had 72,429 inhabitants, and including all of the parishes, 89,133 inhabitants and 10,379 houses.

Population in 1894.—In that year Caracas has 90,959 inhabitants and 13,805 houses.

Population in 1904.—The estimated population of Caracas in 1904 is about 90,000, and including all parishes about 100,000 inhabitants.

Aspect of the city.—The city is regularly laid out, with streets at right angles to each other leading to the four points of the compass. The streets are all paved and numbered somewhat like those of the city of Washington. The sidewalks are of ordinary width and well cemented. The city is built on the southern slope of the coast range, the peaks of which have at this point an altitude of 2,600 meters above the level of the Caribbean Sea. The northern part of the city, which is the highest, is 1,043 meters above the sea level; the central part, 922 meters above; and the southern part, which is the lowest, 880 meters above the same level. Three mountain streams—Catuche, Caroata, and Anauco—receive as affluents the surrounding brooks, cross the city in different directions, and empty their waters into the Guaire River, which flows in an easterly direction at the south of the city.

In the list of the twenty capitals of the American Republics, Caracas occupies the ninth place from the point of view of population, but in regard to its movement, life, and civilization, it must be classed in much higher rank. The broad and shaded avenues; the numerous squares, ornamented by statues and embellished by luxuriant tropical trees; the costly public buildings and well-appointed private residences; the extensive tramway and telephone service; the newspapers, the daily editions of which contain the latest cables from all parts of the world; the high standard of intellectual and social refinement of the better educated persons; the correct style of dress and manners of the people in general; the display of electric light, and general use of electric power for industrial enterprises, and the commercial activity of Caracas as a great center of trade, combine to place the capital of the United States of Venezuela in a prominent position from the general standpoint of advanced civilization.

PRINCIPAL SQUARES.

There are three principal squares.

Bolívar square.—The handsomest, known as Bolivar square (Plaza de Bolivar), is surrounded by beautiful trees and ornamented by a garden artistically laid out with tropical plants and flowers and lighted at night by powerful electric arc lamps. In the center of this square is the bronze equestrian statue of Bolivar, of elegant design and heroic size, reposing on a black marble pedestal. On the northeast side of this square is the cathedral; on the northwest the general post-office and the National Library; on the east the Yellow House, which used to correspond to the White House in Washington, and is now the city



BOLÍVAR'S STATUE, BOLÍVAR SQUARE, CARACAS.
(Courtesy of the Venezuelan Government.)

hall of the Federal District, and the State Department, which is a pavilion annexed to said house; on the south are the municipality, the offices of the Federal District, the central police station, and the palace of the archbishop of Caracas and Venezuela.

Washington square.—This square is ornamented like that of Bolívar, and contains a statue of George Washington, whose memory is held in great veneration.

Miranda square.—In front of the Pantheon is the Miranda square, having in its center the statue of Generalissimo Miranda, born in Caracas, one of the principal heroes of the Venezuelan war of independence, whose name is inscribed in the Paris Arc de Triomphe in commemoration of his military services to France, as a distinguished French general, and who fought as a lieutenant-general under Lafayette for the independence of the United States of America.

Other squares.—The other squares are the 5th of July square, between the capitol building and the university, with an ornamental fountain and gardens; the Plaza de Abril, with Gen. Ezequiel Zamora's statue; the Plaza Falcón, with Marshal Falcón's statue; the Plaza Carabobo, with the statue of Gen. José Gregorio Monagas (Venezuela's Lincoln); the Plaza del Venezolano, with A. L. Guzman's statue; and the Plaza de Ricaurte, with a group commemorating the feats of arms of the war of independence. All these squares have beautiful gardens, and many are surrounded by ornamental railings.

PRINCIPAL BUILDINGS.

Capitol buildings cover an area of about 1 hectare, presenting a handsome combination of Moorish and Spanish architecture. They are built around a spacious court that opens to the broad streets through lofty arches, and adorned by a fine fountain and parterres of tropical flowers and shrubs. The Elliptical Hall, which comprises the larger part of the north side of the building, is well proportioned. Its halls are ornamented with many well-executed paintings of the chief warriors, presidents, statesmen, and literary men of Venezuela, and overhead the entire dome is canopied with a striking and heroic picture of the battle of Carabobo, the Yorktown of Venezuelan independence. On either side of this large hall is a smaller one. When public receptions are held the members of the diplomatic corps assemble in the eastern smaller hall and the consuls in the western one. On the ground and first floors of the eastern and western wings of the capitol buildings is the supreme federal court, and the interior, war and navy, and public instruction departments. On the south are the senate and the house of representatives.

National Pantheon is a massive church edifice in the northern portion of the city, within which are interred the remains of Bolívar, Páez, and other Venezuelan heroes. It has three naves, and at the

head of the central one is to be seen the magnificent marble monument, the masterpiece of the celebrated sculptor, Tenerani, erected to the memory of the liberator, Simón Bolívar, and containing his ashes. In the center is his statue, on one side the statue of Justice and of Innocence, and on the other with a lion guarding the treasure, with this inscription: "Cineris hic condit honorat grata et memor patria.—1851." On national holidays the building is illuminated, a guard of honor is mounted, and patriotic orations are delivered before the assembled multitude, and the marble tomb of Bolívar, blazing in the glare of a thousand lights, is an imposing sight.

National Library is a new building opposite the Bolívar square and possesses many valuable books, and has already a collection of 50,000 volumes.

National Museum has many objects of artistic and historic value, one of the most appreciated of which is the sword that belonged to Bolívar, his decorations and military uniforms, and other objects of personal use. It contains also a collection of valuable historical specimens.

Central University, a great building of Gothic architecture, situated opposite the capitol, is the best of its kind in Venezuela and has six faculties. The medical library of the university contains 1,317 works in 2,393 volumes. In the interior courts of this building are the statues of Doctor Vargas and Engineer Cajigal, the former being the founder of medical studies in Venezuela, and the latter a prominent mathematician.

Schools.—The public and private institutions of learning are numerous in the city, and there are English, French, German, and Italian private institutes.

Institutions of learning in 1904.—The following table shows the denomination and number of institutions of learning within the Federal District in 1903–1904:^a

Institution.	Denomination.	Number.
Medical	College	1
Law	do	1
Engineering	do	1
Agricultural	Institute	1
Fine arts	do	1
Mining	School	1
Polytechnic	do	1
Pharmacist	do	1
Seminary	do	1
Arts and trades	do	1
Telegraphy	do	1
Normal (women)	do	1
Federal schools	do	100
Municipal colleges	do	5
Municipal schools	do	36
Federal, men (in armories)	do	3
Total		156

^a Mem. de Instr. Pública., 1904.

As shown by the foregoing table there were 156 institutions of learning in the Federal District of Venezuela in the year 1903-1904.

Academies.—The Venezuelan Academy, corresponding with the Royal Spanish Academy, founded in the year 1883, and the National Academy of History are the two highest literary bodies which are to be found in the Republic. The duty of the first is to preserve the purity of the national language, and the second studies minutely the past history of Venezuela, so as to give a correct account of it. Each of these bodies is composed of twenty-four members. The Venezuelan Academy has a library of nearly 3,000 volumes, and the Academy of History has a valuable library on historical matters.

Masonic Temple is one of the best of Central and South America. The grand lodge and other lodges of Venezuela are in correspondence with the majority of this class of foreign institutions, and foreign free-masons are well received by the Venezuelan lodges.

Hospitals.—There are several hospitals and other charitable institutions in the capital, but among them the most important is the "Hospital Vargas," which building occupies an area of 19,800 square meters, with separate buildings for each sex, and offices for the direction, administration, dissecting rooms, etc., the whole adorned with beautiful gardens, galleries, and two small chapels. There are also the Linares Hospital for Children, the orphan asylum, children's asylum, and Providence Asylum; the Lazar Hospital, the insane asylum, the hospital for the poor, and others of lesser importance.

The following table, compiled from the report of the governor of the Federal District for 1904, gives the statistics regarding the principal hospitals of Caracas:

Name of hospital.	Number of patients.		Number of operations performed.	Number of inmates.
	Admitted.	Cured.		
Vargas Hospital	2,606	2,084	158	.....
Insane asylum	141	78	.....	234
Hospital for the poor	70	20	.....	196
Lazar Hospital	21	.....	.....	106

Churches.—Caracas is the seat of the Roman Catholic archbishopric in Venezuela, and, besides the large and costly cathedral, possesses several handsome churches, notable among which are Altagracia, Santa Teresa, La Pastora, San Francisco, Las Mercedes, and Candelaria. There are no Protestant churches, though a few chapels of different Protestant denominations are attended by foreign residents.

Independencia Park, formerly called Calvario Park, is located on a large hill to the west of and overlooking the city. Some years ago this was a barren height, but has been subjected to a system of irrigation; traversed in all directions by excellent walks and drives; orna-

mented with fountains and planted with varieties of tropical plants and trees. From its great height can be obtained a bird's-eye view of the city and the beautiful valley to the eastward. This park contains the statues of Columbus and Marshall Sucre.

Theaters.—There are three theaters in the city, the principal of which, the Municipal Theater, is artistically decorated and equipped with modern machinery. All are adapted to opera and vaudevilles.

Amusements.—Caracas has all the places of amusement to be found in a first-class city; hotels, clubs, cafes, etc., the bull ring, the race track of Sabana Grande (where races are held under the management of the Caracas Jockey Club), and baseball and bicycle parks and grounds.

General market.—There is a large general market, two stories in height, constructed according to the most modern principles and considered one of the best in America. It is kept very clean and situated in the central part of the city. It is stocked with choice meats, fowl and fish, and a plentiful variety of fresh vegetables. Beef, mutton, and pork are the staple meats; and potatoes, tomatoes, cabbage, onions, celery, lettuce, cresses, etc., comprise the list of vegetables. The bread, prepared from American flour, is of excellent quality. The prices of all these articles, as well as other supplies for the table, compare favorably with the cost of the same in American or European markets.

Slaughterhouse, situated on the outskirts of the city, is a new building, constructed by a foreign company; has the latest improved machinery and is run by steam power.

Railway stations.—Four railways start from Caracas; one, the La Guaira and Caracas Railway, connecting it with the neighboring port of La Guaira; another, the Central Railway, runs to Petare and Santa Lucía; a third, the Gran Ferrocarril de Venezuela, extends to Valencia, 179 kilometers, crossing the valley of Aragua, through 86 tunnels and across 212 viaducts, and the fourth line runs to the small town of El Valle. The La Guaira and Caracas line, concluded in 1883, is 36½ kilometers long and carries to the port of La Guaira all the natural products of the Federal District and neighboring States.

Tramway lines.—There are two tramway companies. One line runs across the city from the La Guaira and Great Venezuelan Railroad stations on the extreme west to its terminus on the extreme east at the central station, with branches to the old and the new slaughterhouses. Another runs from the south to the north of the city, with six branch lines in different directions.

Telegraph and cable offices.—The telegraph office of Caracas is the central office and is in communication with the whole country and the entire world.

Telephone company has a building of its own. This is the central

office and is connected by long-distance wires with the most important cities of Venezuela. All the city is crossed by telephone lines.

Cajigal Observatory.—The Astronomical and Meteorological Observatory is provided with all the most modern instruments pertaining to this class of institutions and is in constant correspondence with American and European observatories. It has rendered services which have been appreciated abroad, due to the accuracy of its reports and accounts of the local geographic and meteorologic conditions.

Banks.—There are three banking institutions in Caracas, viz: The Bank of Venezuela, with a capital of \$2,500,000 and a movement of \$5,000,000; the Bank of Caracas, with a capital of \$1,200,000 and a movement of \$4,000,000, and the Instituto de Crédito Mobiliario.

Board of health and municipal laboratory.—The latter has been in existence since 1890, and has charge of all matters pertaining to the analysis of food and beverages and the prevention of all kinds of adulteration of articles for daily consumption in the Federal District. The former has charge of the sanitation of the city.

Water supply.—Caracas is plentifully supplied with very good drinkable water at considerable pressure. It is obtained from the Macarao River, some 25 kilometers distant from the capital, carried in large water mains and deposited into reservoirs built on the Calvario hill, where it is filtered and distributed to the several water and sewer mains of the city. There are two other reservoirs on the north of the city, one of which accumulates and supplies water from the Catuche River.

Bridges.—Caracas has forty bridges, besides a picturesque iron viaduct 41 meters long, located near the Great Venezuela and the Caracas and La Guaira Railway stations, which unites the northeastern part of the city with the Independencia Park, and the "iron bridge" over the Guiare River in the southern part of the city.

Newspapers.—Besides the Official Gazette, a daily publication which contains all the acts of the Government, there are 16 political and general newspapers, 2 commercial, 3 scientific, 1 art, 1 religious, and 2 literary. Official publications are edited in Caracas in the Government Printing Office, which provides all the necessary elements and most modern machinery for this kind of work. There are, besides, 18 printing houses belonging to private individuals. The capital invested in these commercial enterprises in the capital city of Venezuela amounts to about \$240,000.

ELECTRIC POWER PLANT.

The Caracas Electric Company receives its supply of electric power through six wires from two plants, El Encantado and Los Naranjos, 16 kilometers distant from the capital.

Encantado plant.—The construction of this plant began in 1896. It is owned by a private company and located on the banks of the river

Guaire near the grottoes of the Encantado, 6 kilometers distant from the city of Petare. It makes use of a fall of water $36\frac{1}{2}$ meters high.

Naranjos plant.—This plant is 3 kilometers distant from the first and avails itself of a fall of water $15\frac{1}{2}$ meters high.

Total impulse.—The total hydraulic impulse for both stations is derived from an altitude of $190\frac{1}{2}$ meters.

Volume of water.—The volume of water supplied to the first plant fluctuates between 1,000 and 4,000 liters per second, the average being 2,320 liters. The second plant receives 1,315 liters per second. Taking into consideration the minimum of 1,000 liters and the total fall of water of $190\frac{1}{2}$ meters, a gross power of 190,500 kilogrammeters per second is produced, which are equivalent to 2,540 horsepower.

Turbines.—The turbines, as well as all the hydraulic material for both plants, came from Zurich.

First station.—The generating station of El Encantado has four turbines of from 240 to 260 horsepower each, of vertical shaft, and two of from 20 to 24 horsepower to work as exciters. The velocity of rotation is 375 revolutions per minute. The mains which supply water to the turbines have 75 and 30 centimeters, respectively, with a flow of 1.70 and 1 meter each per second, with a system of valves to control the admission of water.

Maximum power.—The second plant is in course of construction and will be in complete working order within a short time. It will have an output of 640 horsepower, and the maximum output of both plants will be 2,700 horsepower.

Electric current.—The triple-alternative, high-voltage, and low-frequency electric current is used, as adopted in the majority of modern plants for the transmission of energy. Relatively thin wires are employed to avoid resistance and insure economy. The Encantado plant has four alternators producing a current of 5,200 volts, with a frequency of 50 cycles per second.

Commercial efficiency.—The commercial efficiency of the machines is guaranteed to be 91 per cent. The resistance of the induced coils is 2,227 ohms.

Second station.—The generators at Los Naranjos are four in number, of the horizontal-shaft system, connected to the turbines. When in complete working order the output will be 5,200 volts, which may reach 10,000 volts.

Commercial efficiency.—The commercial efficiency of this plant is guaranteed to be 93 per cent.

Total power.—The total power of both generating stations, measured at their respective terminals, is 1,836.63 kilowatts, equal to 2,495.40 horsepower.

Total voltage.—The total potential available is 15,000 volts, employed in lighting the city and as power for commercial enterprises.

Industries.—Factories of considerable importance in Caracas are manufacturing cigars, cigarettes, chocolate, rum, corn flour, beer, ice, soda water, shoes, sandals, soap, candles, matches, and brandy. There are besides many sawmills and manufactories of lesser importance.

Commerce.—Caracas is the great center of the commerce of Venezuela, for it exports to the interior of the country and imports from it all products and forwards them by its seaport, La Guaira, two hours distant by railway and eight hours by a stage road, which latter was constructed by the Spanish and is kept in good condition. The chief articles of consumption are coffee, cacao, sugar, corn, beans, potatoes, cocoanuts, bananas, pineapples, all kinds of tropical fruit, skins, hides, soap, candles, matches, sandals, shoes, cigars, cigarettes, brandy, rum, and alcohol.

Caracas stock market.

	Capital.	Emission value.	Selling prices.	
			From—	To—
	<i>Bolivars.</i> ^a	<i>Bolivars.</i> ^a	<i>Per cent.</i>	<i>Per cent.</i>
Interior (1 per cent monthly)	3,360,596.00	.....	35	36
National interior debt	59,809,316.00	.....	22	23
French diplomatic debt, 3 per cent.	4,395,513.00	.....	39	40
German loan, Diskonto Gesellschaft	18,811,640.00	.....	43	44
Municipal bonds	900,000.00	.....	8	10
Bank of Venezuela	12,000,000.00	15,000,000.00	90	91
Bank of Caracas	6,000,000.00	7,000,000.00	52	53
Caracas Tram way Co	800,000.00	400.00	40	42
Bolivar Tram way Co	400,000.00	400.00	30	35
Caracas Gas Co	190,200.00	100.00	80	82
Venezuelan Insurance Co	550,000.00	500.00	30	35
The Transport Co	200,000.00	200.00	200	200
National Brewery Co	2,500,000.00	100.00	60	60
El Valle R. R.	336,000.00	200.00	25	40
Electric Power Co	1,500,000.00	100.00	85	86
Special bonds of Caracas:				
Electric light	60,000.00	100.00	85	90
Treasury bonds	2,074,479.84	500.00	14	15
Caracas waterworks	10,175,199.00	500.00	40	50
Salt bonds	3,345,000.00	.....	110	112
Salt certificates	960,000.00	375.00	110	112
Coal mines Curamichate	1,000,000.00	500.00	40	45
Savings bank .....	.....	.....	70	75
Gold .....	.....	.....	04	04
American gold .....	.....	.....	04	04

^aA bolivar is equivalent to .193 cents American gold, or 1 franc.

Value of real estate in 1870.—The following table gives the value of public and private real estate in the Federal District in 1870 (the Vargas department is not included in this table):

Public buildings	\$550,000
Principal bridges (11)	200,000
Squares	100,000
Cemeteries (8)	160,000
Cathedral building and dependencies	500,000
Other ecclesiastic property	2,300,000
University and dependencies	340,000
Dwelling houses (8,417)	13,850,000
	\$18,000,000

Value of property in 1904.—At present, with the many public and private buildings that have been added to the city and the increase in value of real estate during the last thirty-four years, an approximate calculation may place the value of all real estate in the Libertador department at \$50,000,000.

CITY OF LA GUAIRA.

The city of La Guaira, the main port of Venezuela for imports and exports, is situated on the shores of the Caribbean Sea, scarcely 11 kilometers from Caracas, in a direct line, but 37 kilometers by railroad. The city has 14,000 inhabitants. Its annual mean temperature is 84° F.; and the extremes of temperature are 74° F., and 94° F.

Port of La Guaira.—The port of La Guaira was founded by Osorio Villegas in 1558. The roadstead of Caraballeda, 9 kilometers east of La Guaira, was formerly the port of the latter city, but the inhabitants deserted the place and settled at La Guaira. Seven years after its settlement the English filibuster, Amias Preston, landed at Macuto, 4 kilometers east of La Guaira, and with 400 men scaled the precipitous mountains, sacked the city of Caracas, and safely returned to their ships. In 1680 La Guaira was sacked by the French under the command of Grammont; but in 1703 the attack of the Dutch squadron was successfully repulsed. In 1739, the attack of an English squadron was also repulsed, and in 1743 a British fleet of 17 sails, under the command of Commodore Knowles, was defeated and driven off. The city was totally destroyed in 1812 by the earthquake that overwhelmed the city of Caracas.

La Guaira is one of the chief points of interest in connection with the war of independence. Here was plotted the revolution of Gual and España; here began the martyrdom of the brave Miranda, and here were executed Spanish and patriot prisoners.

Aspect of city.—The view of La Guaira, as approached from the sea, is especially charming, so much so that the famous naturalist and voyager, Baron von Humboldt, has remarked that only the beauty of Santa Cruz of Teneriffe, in the Canary Islands, can be compared with it. The lofty mountains of the coast range rise abruptly from the sea to the altitude of 2,600 meters. At their base, on a slope varying from 40 to 100 meters in width, and stretching for 2 kilometers along the shore, lies the city of La Guaira compactly built in amphitheater.

Improvements.—Many important improvements have lately been effected. A long line of formidable shore batteries, constructed by the Spaniards, have been demolished, and thus a considerable part of the land in front of the custom-house has been reclaimed.

Breakwater.—The breakwater has transformed the rough roadstead into a safe and commodious port at a cost of \$5,000,000. Those who have formerly visited La Guaira will not forget the inconveniences

and even dangers of disembarking in open sea. The vessels steam in now, around the west end of the mole, drop anchor in smooth water at the pier, and land passengers and freight without difficulty or inconvenience. It was completed in 1891. The sea wall thus built is 623 meters long, with a depth of water of 14 meters at the extreme point. It is laid down in an average depth of 9 meters of water, and is built up 6 meters above the sea level. The base of the structure is 17 meters wide, and slopes to a width of 10 meters at the ordinary level of the deck of a vessel. The foundation is laid with bags of concrete weighing 150 metric tons each, brought up to within 3 meters of the surface of the water, and the wall built to the surface by dropping 75 metric ton bags of concrete upon this foundation. The wall above the water is built of mass concrete deposited inside of frames in the usual manner.

Area of harbor.—The area of sheltered water in the harbor is 31 hectares, of an average depth of 8.50 meters. Eighteen acres of land have been reclaimed by filling in to deep water. A concrete quay wall 570 meters long with two projecting jetties and a retaining sea wall 426 meters long mark the shore line and afford ample berth for sailing vessels. Steamers are moored at three jetties constructed of iron screw piles that project from the sea wall. These are 10 meters wide and 55, 73, and 79 meters long, respectively, and are covered in strong sheds that are open on the harbor side. Freight is loaded upon cars under these sheds, and thence transported to the warehouses. On the shore side is a sheltered basin with an area of nearly one hectare, where lighters and small coasting craft are accommodated.

Commerce.—During the last twenty years commerce has increased in such a manner that it sometimes taxes to its utmost the transportation facilities of the railroads. The coasting trade with eastern and western ports of Venezuela has grown to such great proportions that the port is constantly busy and animated by the arrivals and sailings of foreign and coastwise vessels charging and discharging hundreds of tons of cargo. On the west is a railway leading to Maiquetía, 3 kilometers distant, and the line to Caracas, and on the east the same railway connecting LaGuaira and Macuto, the Newport of Venezuela, where are located delightful sea and fresh water baths much frequented by the people of Caracas.

The principal articles of commerce are coffee, cacao, beans, hides, skins, timber, and dyewoods, and its manufactures consist of furniture, cigars, soap, chocolate, leather, shoes, hats, etc.

Cable terminus.—At La Guaira is located the shore end of the submarine cable that, via Curaçao, Santo Domingo, and Cuba to Florida, places Venezuela in daily telegraphic communication with the outside world and with all the coast of both eastern and western points of Venezuela from Maracaibo to Ciudad Bolivar.

Forts.—There are two forts which were built by the Spaniards on the mountain slope high above the city. One of them has recently been rebuilt and equipped with modern heavy artillery and accessories.

PETARE.

The city of Petare, capital of the Sucre department of the Federal District, is located in the Caracas Valley, at the foot of the Silla Mountain, near the Guaire and the Caurimare rivers, about 11 kilometers east of Caracas. Its climate, like that of Caracas, is mild and genial. The population amounts to 6,311 inhabitants, and its chief articles of commerce are coffee, sugar, corn, and other cereals. This city was founded in 1704 by Cristóbal Gil, and is connected with Caracas by railway, telegraph, and telephone. It also possesses public schools. Its manufactures consist of furniture, shoes, cigars, and candles.

ISLAND OF MARGARITA.

This island is included in the Federal District. It lies 38 kilometers off the coast of Venezuela, opposite the city of Cumaná. It was discovered by Columbus in 1498 and settled by Marcelo de Villalobos in 1524, under royal grant from Charles V of Spain. The population is about 20,000, occupying two large tracts of territory, connected by a long isthmus 45 meters wide and 3 meters above the level of the sea. The soil is arid and unproductive and water springs are scarce, though the climate is remarkably healthful. There are three small water courses in the island, upon the largest of which is located the city of Asunción, the principal city of the island. This large stream runs over great beds of amphibolic schist, and is strongly impregnated with sulphate of iron and magnesia. There are three ports on the island, the principal of which is Pampatar, on the southeast coast. Its commerce is tributary to La Guaira, and consists of fish, hats, tiles, excellent hammocks, and much fine embroidery and needlework. It is world renowned for its fine pearls, from which the island derives its name, and now a considerable trade is carried on in these articles. A great industry of the people is the fisheries on the neighboring islet of Coche, where many kinds of fish, including Spanish mackerel, red snappers, and mullet are caught in very great numbers and prepared for the various markets on the coast, as well as for Caracas and other interior cities of Venezuela.

Sugar-cane products in 1901.—The following table shows the quantity of domestic sugar-cane products brought into the Federal District from two of its departments during the year 1901, together with the classes of taxes paid thereon, expense incurred in collecting them, and the net receipts for the municipality:

Federal District departments.	Class of products.	Weights.	Total.	Rate of tax.	Receipts. ^a
Libertador ..	Brown sugar ^b	Per load ^b	\$47,945.25	40 cents per load	\$19,178.10
	Sugar.....	Per 100 pounds	9,276.33	30 cents per 100 pounds	7,420.26
	Alcohol -21° ^c	Per 112 pounds net	34,553.00	\$1 per 112 pounds net	34,553.00
	Alcohol -30° ^d	Per 130 pounds net	393.50	\$1.60 per 130 pounds net	629.60
Vargas	Rum ^e	Per 112 pounds net	96.25	\$2 per 112 pounds net	196.50
	Brown sugar	Per load	1,420.60	40 cents per load	568.24
	Sugar.....	Per 100 pounds	1,346.44	30 cents per 100 pounds	7,420.26
	Alcohol (21°).....	Per 112 pounds net	904.75	\$1 per 112 pounds net	904.75
	Rum	do	370.02	\$2 per 112 pounds net	740.04
	Gross receipts.....				65,267.64
	Collecting expense.....				16,316.97
	Net receipts				48,950.67

^a United States currency.^b Brown sugar (papelón) load=64 pieces of 3½ pounds each.^c Alcohol 21° (aguardiente) load=80 bottles weighing net 112 pounds.^d Alcohol 30° (aguardiente) load=100 bottles weighing 130 pounds net.^e Rum, load=80 bottles, weighing 112 pounds net.

Tobacco brought into the Federal District in 1901.—The following table shows the quantity of domestic tobacco brought into the Federal District in 1901, together with taxes paid thereon, expense incurred in collecting it, and the net receipts for the municipality:

Federal District departments.	Date.	Quantity.	Rate of tax.	Receipts. ^a
		<i>Pounds.</i>		
Libertador	May 15 to Dec. 31	629,950	\$2 per 100 pounds	\$16,599.00
Vargas	Aug. 15 to Dec. 31	496,764	do	9,935.28
Gross receipts.....				26,534.28
Collecting expense.....				1,669.60
Net receipts				24,864.68

^a United States currency.

Municipal taxation on alcohol and tobacco.—A governmental decree, dated January 19, 1904, imposes certain taxes on alcoholic beverages and tobacco imported for consumption or distribution in the Federal District of Caracas. The duties leviable under this decree are as follows:

Aguardiente:	Bolivars.
Per "load" of 80 bottles or 56 liters, of 51.52 kilos. weight, up to 21°	
Cartier	20.00
Per "load" of 100 bottles or 70 liters, of 59.80 kilos. weight, from 22° to 30° Cartier	30.00
Rum, per "load" of whatsoever denomination or degree	20.00
Brandy or cognac and whisky, per bottle	1.00
Gin, sweet liquors, and anise, and the like, per bottle .....	.75
Alcohol, from 31° to 36° Cartier, per bottle .....	.60
Alcohol, from 37° Cartier, upward, per bottle	1.00
Wine, red or white, ordinary or fine, imported in bottles, per bottle .....	.25
Tobacco, in whatever form, imported from abroad, per 100 kilos	5.00

All persons importing the said alcoholic beverages or tobacco from abroad or from any State through the port of La Guaira, are to present to the custom-house at that port a manifest on which is to be declared the quantity, number of packages, the degree of spirits or alcohol, and the names of the importer and shipper and of the ship and captain.

Goods imported into the Federal District in transit are to proceed to their destination within eight days, after the expiration of which they are to be considered as for consumption and become subject to duty. When a cargo of alcoholic beverages or tobacco imported in transit is introduced through the port of La Guaira, this fact must be stated in the manifest and the administrator of customs must certify if it is really in transit, having regard to the consular invoice, if it comes from abroad, or to the shipping note if it comes from any State.

The ordinance was to take effect from the date of its publication.

National bureau of registration.—According to the law of registration in force there exist in the capital of the Federal District and in that of every State of the Union a principal bureau of registration, and a subordinate office in the Federal District and in the chief city of each district of the States. The principal bureaus record titles or diplomas to lawyers, doctors, engineers, the clergy, military and civil commissions, navigation licenses, patents, etc. The subaltern offices record deeds, powers of attorney, mercantile matters, settlements of estates, etc.

Federal District courts.—Justice is administered in the Federal District of Venezuela through a supreme court, a superior court, a civil court of the first instance, a court of commerce, a criminal court, a jury according to Title V of the Criminal Procedure Code, a district court, parish courts, and instruction courts, according to the Organic Code of the Federal District Courts enacted on May 25, 1899, as law number 7457. (See *Compilation of Laws and Decrees of Venezuela*, vol. 22, pp. 93-103.)

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CHAPTER IV.

STATES AND FEDERAL TERRITORIES—RESOURCES, MEANS OF COMMUNICATION, POPULATION, TRADE, CAPITAL CITIES, AND PRINCIPAL TOWNS.

POLITICAL DIVISION.

The territory of the United States of Venezuela is divided into districts and Federal Territories. The districts are grouped and form the States.

The Republic is composed of 13 States, 5 Federal Territories, and the Federal District.

ORGANIZATION.

The States are presided over by a President, appointed for three years, and in case of disability on his part two alternates, respectively called first and second vice-president, fill the vacancies that may occur. The Federal District and Federal Territories are presided over by governors, but the President of the Republic has power, according to sections 4 and 5 of article 75 of the constitution to administer both the Federal District and the Federal Territories.

RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF STATES.

Rights.—The States which form the Venezuelan Union are self-governing and equal in political existence. (Const., art. 7.)

All that is not especially ascribed by the constitution to the general administration remains within the jurisdiction of the States. (Const., art. 103.)

The courts of justice of the States are independent and cases are only subject to the revision of the supreme Federal court as provided by law. (Const., art. 105.)

The National Government shall not have other functionaries residing in the States than those of public instruction and those required according to the organization that Congress may give to mines, public lands, salt mines, and tobacco and alcohol tax, and the forces in charge of fortresses, parks, naval stations, and open ports, who shall have jurisdiction regarding their respective functions and within the limits

of those fortresses and armories, naval stations and open ports, subject to the general rules of the respective States. (Const., art. 112.)

Obligations.—1. To organize according to the principles of popular, elective, federal representative, alternative, and responsible government, and to decree their constitutions to establish rules for their government according to the principles of the national constitution.

2. To carry into execution the constitution and laws of the Union and the decrees, orders, and resolutions issued by the national authorities according to the powers vested in them.

3. To acknowledge, in their respective constitutions, that municipal authorities are independent from the political authorities of the State in matters economic and relative to administration, and therefore the districts shall be entitled to establish their system of revenue in conformity with items 10, 11, 12, and 13.

In cases of civil war or war with a foreign country the executive power of the State shall likewise assume the management of the districts within their jurisdiction authorized thereto by the respective legislative assembly and, if the latter is not in session, by their supreme court.

4. To defend themselves against any aggression which may endanger their independence and the integrity of the nation.

5. Not to alienate to any foreign power any portion of their territory, nor to implore its protection, establish or cultivate political and diplomatic intercourse with other nations.

6. Not to combine with or become allies of another nation nor to secede from Venezuela.

7. To cede to the National Government the territory that may be necessary for the erection of forts, wharves, warehouses, shipyards, penitentiaries, and other buildings indispensable to the General Government.

8. To reserve to the National Government the administrations of the territories of Amazonas, Cristóbal Colón, Colón, Delta Amacuro, and Yuruari, the latter having the right to ask to be admitted to the rank of State upon fulfillment of the conditions required by article 4 of the constitution.

9. To reserve to the Federal powers all legislative or executive jurisdiction concerning maritime, seacoast, and river navigation, wharves, and national roads, but the Federal powers can not levy taxes restricting navigation in rivers, lakes, and other navigable waters unless some special work has been required. Roads are national when leading from one State to another or from one State to the Federal District or Federal Territories.

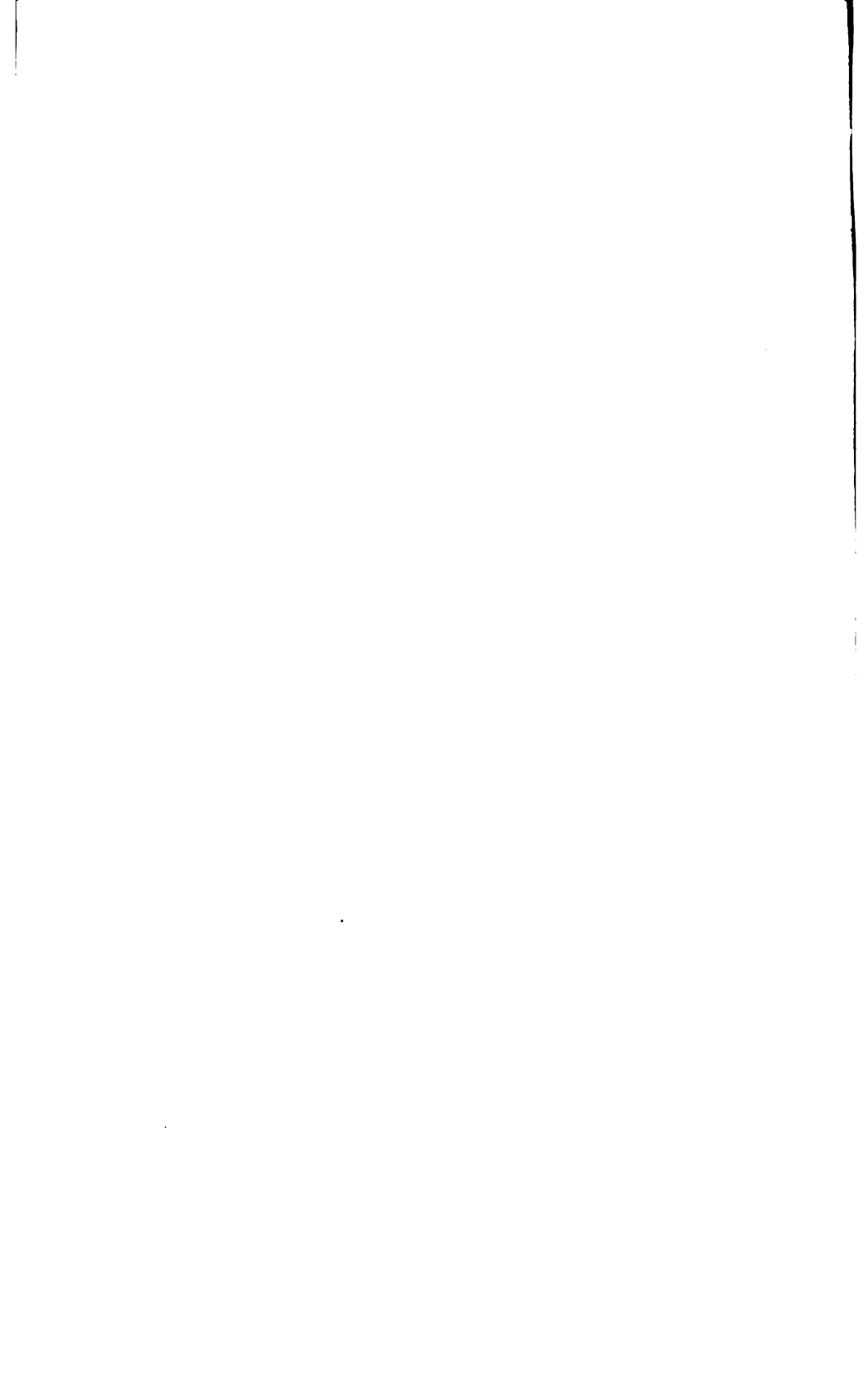
10. To not levy taxes on national export products.

11. To not levy taxes on foreign products already burdened by



ENTRANCE TO THE COURT OF THE CAPITOL, CARACAS.

(Courtesy of the Venezuelan Government.)



national duties or exempted from them on cattle or any class of merchandise before being offered for consumption.

12. To not prohibit the consumption of cattle and other articles of other States nor to levy taxes on them.

13. To not establish custom-houses, as they can only be instituted by the National Government.

14. To recognize the right of each State to dispose of its natural products according to law.

15. To give faith to the public acts and judicial proceedings of other States and the Federal District and the Federal Territories and cause them to be complied with and executed.

16. To organize its tribunals and courts which shall be ruled by one and the same laws in regard to civil, commercial, and criminal matters as well as in matters of procedure.

17. To concur according to law to form the supreme federal court.

18. To abide by the decisions of the supreme federal court as supreme court of the federation and the States.

19. To adopt the direct vote in choosing the members of the municipal councils, legislatures, and House of Representatives.

20. To reserve to the nation the right to legislate in regard to superior public instruction.

21. Not to impose obligations on national employees, except as citizens of the State.

22. To furnish the proportional disarmed contingent for the public forces.

23. To not permit in the States military conscription.

24. To not declare or wage war, in any case, to each other, and to preserve strict neutrality in controversies between other States.

25. To defer and submit to the supreme federal court all controversies among States which can not be settled amicably.

26. To acknowledge the jurisdiction of the supreme federal court as supreme tribunal of the States to take cognizance of cases of treason or violation of the constitution and laws of the union.

27. To consider as their only source of income—(1) the territorial tax of customs-houses; (2) the yield of mining, public lands, and salt mines, in the condition provided by law; (3) their share in the tobacco and alcohol revenue; (4) the taxes on their own natural products, and (5) the product of stamped paper.

28. To authorize Congress to create and organize aforesaid revenue according to numbers 1, 2, and 3 of base 27 of the constitution.

29. To keep distant from the frontier all political refugees, provided the respective State so requests it. (Const., art. 7.)

Support of the States.—According to Executive decree of May 14, 1904, the Government has assigned, as established by the constitution

in force, the monthly payment of sums for the support of the States, as follows:

	Bolívar.
Aragua	24,000
Bolívar	12,000
Bermúdez	40,000
Carabobo	30,000
Falcón	20,000
Guárico	20,000
Lara	30,000
Mérida	20,000
Miranda	16,000
Táchira	20,000
Trujillo	20,000
Zamora	30,000
Zulia	16,000

FEDERAL STATES AND PRINCIPAL CITIES.

The names of the States of the Venezuelan Federation are: **Aragua, Bermúdez, Bolívar, Carabobo, Falcón, Guárico, Lara, Mérida, Miranda, Táchira, Trujillo, Zamora, and Zulia.**

ARAGUA STATE.

This State consists of the following districts: Bruzual, Girardot, Mariño, Ricaurte, Roscio, San Casimiro, San Sebastián, Urdaneta and Zamora. The principal cities are:

La Victoria.—This city is the capital of the Aragua State. It was founded by Francis Loreto in 1593, has a population of 7,800 inhabitants, and is located in the fertile valley of Aragua, 475 meters above the level of the sea and 59 kilometers southwest of the city of Caracas. Its average annual temperature is 74° F. The staple articles of its commerce are coffee, sugar, cacao, beans, and all varieties of cereals. It has a factory for weaving narrow cotton cloths, besides manufactories of cigars, shoes, sandals, wagons, blank books, candles, soap, and fireworks. The city has a good system of public schools, telephonic and telegraphic service.

Barbacoas.—This city is located on an elevated plain on the east bank of the Guárico River. On the north and east are high, wooded mountains; on the west is the river, and on the south are broad and fertile fields. Its population amounts to 13,109 inhabitants, and the chief articles of commerce are cattle, hogs, goats, sugar, cheese, hides, skins, timber, medicinal plants, etc. Its manufactures consist of hats, sandals, baskets, pottery, hammocks, and leather.

Ciudad de Cura.—This city is situated 90 kilometers nearly west of the city of Caracas and very near the lake of Valencia. Founded in 1730 by Juan de Bolívar y Villegas, is located in a broad and beautiful valley formed by depressions in the Cordilleras, and lies between two

ivers, 487 meters above the level of the sea. Its average annual temperature is 80° F., and the population amounts to 12,198 inhabitants. The fine position it occupies and the proximity to the plains of Guárico render it one of the most important and advantageous centers of business. Its principal articles of commerce are coffee, cacao, and beans. Vast cattle farms in the vicinity produce large quantities of cheese, hides, etc. During the war of the independence, this city was the scene of various engagements, and was repeatedly occupied by the contending forces. In the suburbs is the village of La Puerta, where desperate encounters occurred, all of which were unfavorable to the Republican arms. The city is watered and lighted, has good telegraphic service, and fine schools. There are two newspapers, various hotels, and manufactories of cigars, candles, soap, hats, and shoes.

Maracay.—The city of Maracay, capital of the district of Girardot, was founded in the seventeenth century by Pérez de Almarza, and is situated on a fine plain, on the banks of the Maracay River, near the northern shore of the lake of Valencia, 90 kilometers west of Caracas, and 450 meters above the level of the sea. Its mean annual temperature is 74° F., and the population amounts to 7,500 inhabitants. Its principal articles of commerce consist of cattle, hogs, coffee, sugar, tobacco, and timber. Its manufactures are of little importance. Maracay is noted in the annals of the war of independence as the base of operations of the Venezuelan general, Miranda, and for the splendid victory achieved there by McGregor over the Spaniards under Quero, in 1816.

Ortiz.—The city of Ortiz, settled by an Indian cacique of that name, is located on the confines of the plains of the Guárico at the depression of the interior cordilleras, 112 kilometers nearly south of Caracas, and 99 meters above the level of the sea. Its mean annual temperature is 80° F., and the population amounts to 4,000 inhabitants. The staple articles of its commerce consist of cattle, horses, mules, hides, tobacco, and cheese. This city was burned during the war of independence, and near it, at Rincón de los Toros, General Bolívar barely escaped with his life on the night of April 16, 1818.

San Mateo.—This city is situated on the right bank of the Aragua River on the declivity of a hill, a little more than 8 kilometers from the city of La Victoria. Its population amounts to 2,500 inhabitants, and its principal articles of commerce are coffee, sugar, cacao, beans, and cereals. This place is celebrated in the annals of the war of independence for its heroic defense by Bolívar against the Spanish under Boves, in 1814. When the Spanish stormed the fortress, the patriots were obliged to retire, but the patriot Ricaurte, remaining in the magazine until the royal troops thronged the fortress, threw his lighted cigar into a barrel of powder and hurled the fortress, his enemies, and himself to destruction.

BERMÚDEZ STATE

This State consists of the following districts: Acosta, Aragua, Arismendi, Benítez, Bermúdez, Bolívar, Bruzual, Cajigal, Cedeño, Freytes, Libertad, Mejías, Monagas, Montes, Peñalver, Piar, Rivero, Sucre, and Zaraza.

Cumaná.—This city is the capital of the Bermúdez State. It was founded by González Ocampo in 1520, forty-five years before St. Augustine, Fla., was settled, and eighty-seven years before the colonists landed at Jamestown, Va., and is the oldest city on the continent of America. Some Spanish missionaries really landed there in 1512 and made a tentative effort to found a mission, but owing to the atrocities of the Spanish pirates, who were continually kidnapping the natives and selling them as slaves in the islands of Santo Domingo and Puerto Rico, the enraged Indians massacred all the whites on the coast. It was through the good offices of the philanthropic missionary Las Casas that the colony was finally established; and through the enlightened and prudent policy of its governors, who extended liberal protection and patronage to its agriculture and commerce, Cumaná became rich and prosperous and all classes of its inhabitants enjoyed prosperity. This city is located 1 kilometer distant from the Gulf of Cariaco, on the Mazanares River, which is the finest stream along the coast, between Trinidad and the Gulf of Maracaibo, and a tramway and good level road lead from the city to the port. It is situated 16 meters above the level of the sea. Its mean annual temperature is 83° F., and the population amounts to 10,000 inhabitants. Its chief articles of commerce are coffee, beans, sugar, hides, and tobacco. The fruits in the vicinity, especially grapes and pineapples, are remarkable for their size and flavor.

The Gulf of Cariaco, on which the port is situated, is 67 kilometers long and 11 kilometers wide, and the shores, rising gradually on either side, present a fine landscape of luxuriant vegetation and good cultivation. It is a great resort for pelicans, herons, flamingoes, and other aquatic fowls. The natives, to catch them, cast numbers of large gourds into the waters. After a time these cease to attract the notice of the fowls, when, fitting gourds pierced with holes over their heads, they swim out among the unsuspecting birds, drag them under the water, and fasten them in their belts. The waters of the gulf abound with different kinds of fishes. On the north side of the gulf, opposite Cumaná, is Araya Point, once strongly fortified by the Spanish. In its vicinity are extensive mines of pure rock salt, owned and worked by the Government. Valuable springs of petroleum are also found in the locality.

Barcelona.—Barcelona was founded in 1671 by the Spanish explorer Fernández de Angulo, and is located on a spacious plain on the Neverí River, 4 kilometers from the Caribbean coast and 12 meters above the level of the sea. Its mean annual temperature is 82° F., and the popu-

lation amounts to 12,758 inhabitants. Its chief articles of commerce consist of coffee, sugar, beans, timber, dyewoods, and cereals. It possesses good educational institutions, and is connected by telegraph with all points of the Republic. It is connected by railway with the new and commodious port of Guanta, 19 kilometers distant. The city and surrounding country is very healthy. Nineteen kilometers from Barcelona are the important coal deposits of Naricual and Capiricual. Its chief articles of commerce consist of sugar cane, timber, medicinal plants, and cereals. Its manufactures comprise cotton cloths, hammocks, ropes, straw hats, pottery, soap, and rum.

Aragua de Barcelona.—This city is located near a large forest on the banks of the Aragua River, 112 meters above the level of the sea, and 75 kilometers south of Barcelona. Its mean annual temperature is 77° F., and the population amounts to 12,000 inhabitants.

Carúpano.—An important port, situated on the Caribbean Sea, lies at the opening of two beautiful valleys, and is watered by two fine streams. It is 7 meters above the sea level, and the mean annual temperature is 81° F. The climate, though warm, is remarkably salubrious. The population amounts to 11,500 inhabitants. Large quantities of superior cacao beans are exported from this port, the bulk of which goes to France. Its other staple articles of commerce consist of coffee, sugar, cotton, timber, dyewoods, and furniture woods. Its manufactures comprise straw hats, grass ropes, pottery, soap, sugar, and fine rum. The port is regularly visited by steamships from Europe and New York, and its commerce has assumed considerable importance. The vicinity is quite rich in minerals, among which are found gold, silver, lead, sulphur, lime, and gypsum.

Cumanaca.—Situated in the interior, about 72 kilometers southeast of Cumaná, on the Manzanares River, is very healthy and possesses a mild and agreeable temperature. Cacao and beans are the principal products of the vicinity. Near it are located fine Epsom salt springs. Forty-eight kilometers farther south, at the base of the Bergantín Mountains, is a famous grotto, in which are millions of nocturnal birds called guácharos that fill the cave with their plaintive cries. They are valued for their fat, and their guano is an excellent fertilizer.

Guanta.—Guanta is situated on the Caribbean Sea, 19 kilometers nearly north of Barcelona, and has an excellent harbor, horseshoe shaped, the entrance being 609 meters (2,000 feet) wide, and protected on the sea side by an island 1½ kilometers distant. It is sheltered from all points on the land side by high hills rising abruptly from the water. The entrance is easy and safe from east and west, with plenty of water, and within is fine anchorage for vessels of large tonnage; the shore lines are 8 to 10 meters deep, so that vessels of any draft may without difficulty lie close in to the iron wharf. The custom-house is a large building substantially constructed of stone. The port of Guanta is situated 64° 57' 15" to the west of the Greenwich longitude

and $10^{\circ} 15' 5''$ of latitude north. The wharf has an area of 4,200 square meters. The climate is warm but no contagious diseases are prevalent. This port has been improved by a company of foreign capitalists, and a railway via Barcelona to the coal deposits of Nari-cual and Capiricual, 38 kilometers distant, has also been constructed. The advantages of this new port are such that it has taken away all the trade formerly tributary to the old port of Barcelona. To the east of Guanta lie the smaller West Indian islands, to the north the larger, and to the west the island of Curaçao and the principal ports of Venezuela. The distance of Guanta from the islands and Venezuelan ports is the following: 321 miles from the island of Trinidad, 482 from St. Vincent, 325 from Grenada, 514 from Santa Lucia, 563 from Barbados, 547 from Martinique, 579 from Santo Domingo, 643 from Guadeloupe, 804 from St. Thomas, 804 from Puerto Rico, 225 from La Guaira, 354 from Puerto Cabello, and 466 from Curaçao. The principal products are sugar cane, coffee, cacao, bananas, cassava, corn, fruit, etc. The port of Guanta is one of the principal centers in Venezuela for the exportation of live stock.

Río Caribe.—Is situated near the Caribbean coast, 337 kilometers east of Caracas and 4 meters above the sea level. The port is one of the best on the coast. Its average annual temperature is 84° F., and the population amounts to 6,000 inhabitants. Its staple articles of commerce are coffee, cacao, beans, sugar, timber, dyewoods, and cereals. Its manufactures consist of pottery, ropes, sugar, and rum. In the vicinity are found deposits of lime, sulphur, and asphalt.

MATURÍN SECTION.

Geographical position.—The section is situated in the eastern region of the Republic. It is bounded on the north by the former Sucre State; on the south by the Orinoco River; on the east by the Vagre Canal, Gulf of Paria, and part of the former Sucre State; and on the west by the former Barcelona State.

Area and population.—The area of the section is 34,036 square kilometers and the population 74,503 inhabitants, according to the official census of 1891.

Climate.—The mean temperature is from 25° to 32° C., rising sometimes to 34° , but there are cold places, such as Caripe and San Agustín, where the thermometer falls to 15° .

General Aspect.—Two-thirds of the territory consists of plains covered with pasture, and one-third is represented by the forestry and agricultural zones.

Agricultural products.—The staple products are coffee, tobacco, sugar cane, cacao, cassava, and cereals. According to the census of 1891 there were 848 coffee plantations, 240 sugar-cane plantations, 7,000 cereal plantations, and 35 cacao plantations.

Pastoral zone.—Two-thirds of the territory consists of land devoted to stock raising. There are over 40 ranches, where 40,000 head of cattle graze. The pastoral products consist principally in the commerce of horned cattle and cheese.

Mines.—There are asphalt, iron, sulphur, alum, petroleum, marble, and copperas mines, and a salt deposit near Pedernales. None of the asphalt mines is being worked.

Industrial products.—These products consist of hammocks made of moriche and curagua, palm and straw hats, fiber and horsehair rope, cigars, soap, sandals, dressed hides, shoes, tallow candles, and everything pertaining to saddlery.

Orography.—The coast range of the former Sucre State branches off toward the interior, forming ten peaks, which attain an altitude of 1,000 to 1,500 meters above the sea level.

Hydrography.—The maritime coasts extend from the mouth of the Vagre Canal to the right margin of the mouth of the Guarapiche River. The section is crossed by 65 rivers and about 14 rivulets. The principal rivers are the Orinoco, the Guanipa, with a course of 70 leagues; the Tigre, with 72; the Guarapiche, with 54; the Morichal Largo, with 52; the Amana, the Oroacoa, and San Juan, which formed part of the limits of the former Sucre State.

Ports.—There are three ports, that of Barrancas, on the left margin of the Orinoco; Buja, on the maritime coast of the State, and Caño Colorado, on the left bank of the Guarapiche, about 93 kilometers from the sea.

Fluvial communication.—This consists of the Orinoco to the south; the Guarapiche, from its mouth to the city of Maturín; the San Juan, from its mouth on the Guarapiche to the Colón municipality, the principal town of which is Caripito.

Means of communication.—The means of communication consist of the road from Maturín to Cumaná, which gives access to thirteen towns and villages, and several other roads to the south and east of the section.

Commercial movement.—Imports are from La Guaira, Caracas, Puerto Cabello, Trinidad, United States, France, Germany, and Great Britain, and amount to about \$80,000 a year, and the exports amount to \$100,000 a year.

Population.

	Houses.	Inhabitants.		Houses.	Inhabitants.
Maturín	958	4,358	Aguasay	122	358
Caicara	152	900	San Francisco	50	280
Aragua	70	587	Chaguaramal	52	290
Caripe	67	580	Guacharacas	40	260
Areo	77	518	Santa Bárbara	49	259
Punceres	29	97	Hueva Tabasca	67	246
Uracoa	85	485	Guanaguana	53	247
Barrancas	138	454	Caripito	40	230
Boquerón	64	427	Caño Colorado	36	163
San Antonio	89	497	San Félix	17	107

City of Maturín.—This city consists of 958 houses and has a population of 4,358 inhabitants. It has several public buildings and offices, two colleges, four schools, a board of public instruction, post and telegraph office, etc. It is located on the Guarapiche River, 35 kilometers above the port of Caño-Colorado on the same river, and near the Gulf of Paria. Its mean annual temperature is 82° F., and its chief articles of commerce consist of cattle, coffee, chocolate, beans, and cereals.

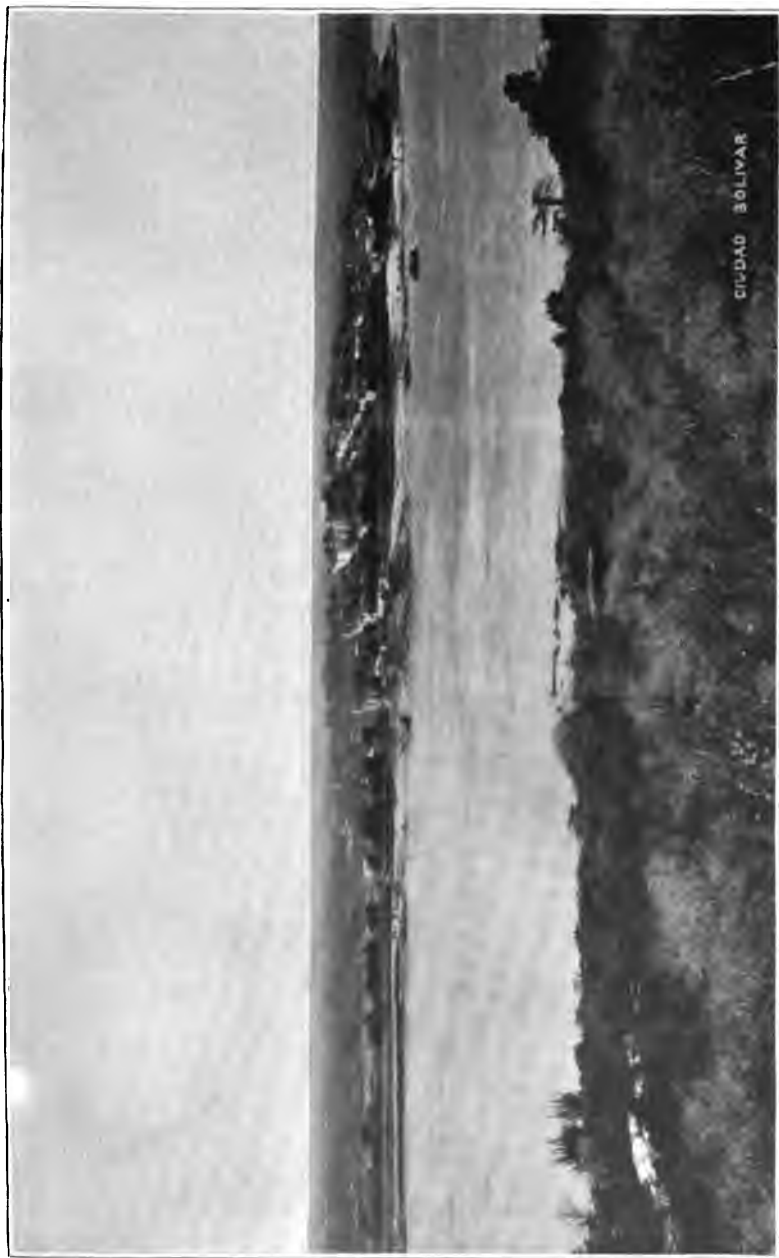
This city is noted in the annals of the war of independence for its heroic defense against the Spaniards, who three times attacked it and were twice disastrously repulsed and finally destroyed, the Spanish commander, Monteverde, barely escaping capture.

BOLÍVAR STATE.

This State consists of the following districts: Cedeño, Heres, Independencia, Miranda, Sotillo, Sucre, and Tadeo Monagas, and is bounded on the north by the States of Miranda, Bermúdez, and Zamora; on the south by the territories of Amazonas and Yuruari; on the east by the Atlantic Ocean, and on the west by the former territory of Alto Orinoco and the Republic of Colombia. Its area is of 229,733 square kilometers, and the population amounts to 60,097 inhabitants.

Ciudad Bolívar.—This city, the capital of the State, was founded by Mendoza in 1764, and is situated on the right bank of the Orinoco River, 600 kilometers from its mouth and 56 meters above the level of the sea. Its mean temperature is 83° F., and the population amounts to 11,686 inhabitants. Its principal articles of commerce are cattle, horses, mules, cheese, tobacco, tonka beans, cacao, coffee, copaiba, rubber, sarsaparilla, bitters, timber, and dyewoods. This city was formerly called Angostura, owing to the narrows of the river at that point, where it is but 731 meters wide; but in 1846 it received its present name in honor of Gen. Simón Bolívar. Among the public edifices worthy of note are the Federal College, the cathedral, theater, masonic temple, hospital, and custom-house. In the Bolívar Park are many tropical plants and flowers, besides a statue of Bolívar, surrounded by statues representing Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Bolivia. The city has also a good aqueduct, and manufactories of ceramics, candles, soap, brooms, ice, and aerated waters. It is the seat of a bishopric, established in 1790 by Pope Pius VI.

During the war of independence, the first patriot journal in Venezuela was established in this city, and here assembled the renowned Congress of Angostura, which decreed the creation of the Republic of Colombia in 1813. The patriot forces under Monagas and Cedeño suffered a severe defeat here in 1815, but the Spanish forces under Delatorre were in turn routed by Piar in 1816.



CIUDAD BOLÍVAR—VIEW ACROSS THE ORINOCO RIVER.

(Courtesy of the Venezuelan Government.)



CARABOBO STATE

This State consists of the following districts: Bejuma, Falcón, Guacara, Montalbán, Nirgua, Ocumare, Puerto Cabello, and Valencia.

Area and population.—Carabobo is the smallest State of the Venezuelan Federal Union. Its largest extension from east to west is 112 kilometers and its extreme length from north to south is 80 kilometers. Its area is 7,732 square kilometers, and the population is estimated at 130,000 inhabitants.

Boundaries.—Its boundaries are, to the north the Caribbean Sea, to the east the States of Aragua and Guárico, to the west the Lara State, and to the south the Zamora State.

Agricultural zone.—Toward the north this zone produces coffee, cacao, and the cocoanuts, and by-products of the cocoa trees. Toward the interior the products of the mountain lands are principally coffee and cereals. The valleys and vicinities of the Valencia Lake produce sugar cane in abundance, out of which sugar, brown sugar, and alcohol are manufactured, and meet the consumption of the Carabobo and Aragua States and part of that of Caracas.

Pastoral zone.—To the east and south lie immense plains always covered with abundant pasturage, where a considerable number of live stock is raised. Puerto Cabello is the principal export port for live stock.

Natural products.—There is a great variety of natural products—medicinal and dyeing plants, timber, gums, resins, etc. There are no regular rubber-tree forests, but everywhere these trees are found.

Manufacturing industries.—These are represented by the great cotton-goods manufactory of Valencia by tanneries, breweries, and shoe, cigar, cigarette, textile, hat, carriage, chocolate, and other manufactories.

Mining.—Many gold, silver, copper, iron, and other mines have been denounced. Only the marble quarries of Valencia and Gañango are being worked.

Commerce.—The import and export commerce of Carabobo is estimated at over \$3,000,000 a year.

Valencia.—The city of Valencia, the capital of the State of Carabobo and one of the most important centers of the Republic, is situated 3 kilometers from the western shore of the lake of Valencia, 55 meters above the level of the sea, and has a mean annual temperature of 77° F. It was founded in 1555 by Moreno, and has a population of nearly 40,000 inhabitants. It is regularly laid out and substantially built, and is surrounded in all directions by fine plantations, where are grown in abundance all the chief products of the Torrid Zone. Good roads lead to Puerto Cabello, San Carlos, Nirgua, Cura, Villa de Caracas, and other points, and it is connected by railway with Caracas and with the seaport Puerto Cabello. It has a good telephone service and

is in communication with all the Republic of Venezuela and Colombia by telegraph. It is lighted by electricity, abundantly supplied with good water, and has a university and numerous public and private institutions of learning. It is of great importance as a commercial center, and the staple articles of commerce are coffee, sugar, rum, cattle, hides, and agricultural products. Its manufactures consist of cotton cloths and yarns from the important manufactory existing in the city, of iron castings, agricultural machinery, stills, furniture, leather, shoes, hats, cigars, chocolate, macaroni, alcohol, soap, and candles. Its chief public places are the cathedral, Capitol, national college, and market house. It also has several handsome parks, the principal of which are the Plaza Bolívar, Peña, Avenida Camoruco, and El Calvario. In 1561 the city was visited by the famous pirate Aguirre and his sanguinary band, who perpetrated great atrocities upon the inhabitants. Upon the breaking out of the war with Spain, Valencia was designated as the capital of Venezuela, and Congress was in session there when Caracas was destroyed by an earthquake in 1812. It was heroically defended in 1814 against the Spanish forces under Ceballos, who besieged it, and the flower of its youth valiently shared in the decisive victory of the Venezuelan army on the plains of Carabobo. It was again besieged by the royal forces under Boves in the fall of 1814, and was desperately and successfully defended.

The fine topographical location of Valencia, its delightful climate, and the splendid agricultural resources that are tributary to it, give to it an importance second to no other place in Venezuela. Valencia possesses a good street-car service and several places of amusement.

Montalbán.—This city is located at the foot of a hill on the Montalbán River, 48 kilometers southwest of the city of Valencia and 72 meters above the sea level. It was settled in the seventeenth century by a colony of Spaniards from Montalbán of Aragón (Spain). It has a mean annual temperature of 73° F., and the population amounts to 7,500 inhabitants. The surrounding country is extremely fertile, and in the past century was devoted, under the direction of the noted Father Isla, to the raising of stock and the growing of wheat and indigo. Coffee was planted in Montalbán, as a trial, by Pinto and Ortega in 1813. The results were so satisfactory that other industries were abandoned and Carabobo has now become one of the principal coffee-growing sections of Venezuela. Coffee and sugar form the most important articles of commerce.

Nirgua.—This city was founded by Meneses y Padilla in 1628, is located on a high, picturesque plain, surrounded by hills, near the Buria River, 762 meters above the sea level and 59 kilometers southwest of Valencia. Its mean annual temperature is 71° F. The popu-

lation is 8,394 inhabitants. The staple articles of commerce are coffee, cacao, beans, sugar, rum, cotton, lumber, and cereals. Nirgua is situated in a rich mineral region. In the vicinity are two valuable copper mines, beside which are found extensive deposits of sulphur, copperas, red and yellow ochre, coal, talc, and feldspath. These mines were formerly worked by the Spanish.

Ocumare.—It is located near the Caribbean coast and about 30 kilometers east of Puerto Cabello, and lies in a fertile valley on the Ocumare River. It was settled in 1731 and has 7,493 inhabitants. Its climate is warm, but the breezes that constantly blow from the sea moderate the heat and give a healthy and agreeable temperature. The principal articles of commerce are coffee, cacao, beans, sugar, cattle, and cereals. It is the center of a large tract of country that is world renowned for its exceptionally fine quality of cacao. Here Bolívar landed with a small band of revolutionists in 1816.

Puerto Cabello.—This important port is situated on the Caribbean Sea, about 104 kilometers west of La Guaira. Its mean annual temperature is 80° F., and the population amounts to 14,000 inhabitants. Through this port are exported the products of the States of Carabobo, Lara, Zamora, and a part of the Táchira and Trujillo States, consisting chiefly of coffee, cacao, beans, cotton, tobacco, hides, skins, timber, and dyewoods. This city possesses several handsome buildings and parks and is well lighted and supplied with good water. The custom-house, lately constructed of materials imported from the United States, is an extensive and costly structure, and is the best building for the purpose in Venezuela. The city has several churches and various public and private institutions of learning. The name of Puerto Cabello, signifying hair port, was given to it by the Spanish, who were wont to say that in its placid waters a vessel could be moored with a hair. It was often subjected to attacks from the Dutch pirates from the neighboring island of Curaçao, and to resist their incursions it was well fortified by the Spanish. In the last century it was successfully defended against the attack of a British fleet under Commodore Knowles. During the war of independence the Spanish prisoners confined in the castle surprised and captured the stronghold. In 1823 the Spanish commander, Calzada, was in turn surprised in a night attack by patriots under the renowned leader, Paez, and compelled to surrender. This was the last conflict between the contending armies during the war of independence.

Tinaquillo.—This city, in the section of Cojedes, is situated in the plains of Taguanes, and has a population of 4,500 inhabitants. It is a point of considerable importance and carries on a large and prosperous trade in coffee, sugar, and starch. In the vicinity are found deposits of iron, opals, and manganese.

FALCÓN STATE.

This State consists of the following districts: Acosta, Bolívar, Buchivacoa, Colina, Democracia, Falcón, Federación, Miranda, Petit, Urdaneta, and Zamora.

Coro.—This city is the capital of the State and was founded by Ampies in 1527. It is one of the oldest settlements on the continent of America, and was until 1576 the capital of the Province of Venezuela. It is located 321 kilometers west of the city of Caracas, near the Caribbean coast, 32 meters above the level of the sea. Its mean annual temperature is 81° F., and the population amounts to 9,000 inhabitants. The principal articles of commerce are coffee, cacao, tobacco, castor beans, timber, and dyewoods, but by far the most important product is goatskins, of which vast quantities are exported and sold as Curaçao skins. Among its manufactures are soap, cigars, chewing tobacco, candles, castor oil, hammocks, and pack thread. Coro was the most important colony founded by the Spanish, from which point numerous expeditions were sent out to reduce to submission the natives of the country. It is also celebrated as the spot where the first effort was made for the liberty of Venezuela, where Miranda unsuccessfully battled with the royal forces, and where at last was achieved a splendid victory by the patriot army.

Cabudare.—Is located a few kilometers southeast of Coro, in the low country. Its population amounts to 4,000 inhabitants. The chief articles of commerce consist of coffee, cacao, beans, timber, and agricultural products.

Capatárída.—Located on the Gulf of Maracaibo; is the emporium of a section of country that is noted for raising tobacco of fine quality. Its mean annual temperature is 86° F., and the population amounts to 2,000 inhabitants.

GUÁRICO STATE.

This State consists of the following districts: Achaguas, Infante, Miranda, with the municipality "El Calvario," Muñoz, and San Fernando.

Calabozo.—This old city, in the plains of Guárico, is the capital of the State. It was founded by the Guipuzcoan Company, under grant from the Spanish Crown, in 1730, as a barrier to the incursions of the hostile Indians, who frequently attacked the religious missions in the vicinity. It is situated on the southern border of the plains of Guárico, on the left bank of the Guárico River, 99 meters above the sea level and 199 kilometers nearly south of Caracas. The average annual temperature is 80° F., and although warm it is a very healthy climate. Its principal articles of trade are lumber, hides, cheese, skins, hammocks, cattle, horses, mules, and liquors. Much of its commerce is carried on by water with points on the Guárico, Portuguesa, Orituco,

Apure, and Apurito rivers. The population, by the late census, amounts to 5,618 inhabitants. The city has nine institutions of learning and there are also published there several newspapers and periodicals.

Camagüán.—This city is situated on a plain on the left bank of the Portuguesa River. Its population amounts to 3,648 inhabitants. The most important staples of its trade are cattle, hides, skins, fish, cheese, tobacco, liquors, and bricks. It was settled by Capuchin missionaries in the seventeenth century. Near the city is a remarkable lake with an area of 38 kilometers, formed by the overflow of the large rivers called Portuguesa and Apure and of the Apurito River, the latter being navigable during the wet season and extends to the towns south of the Guárico and west of the Portuguesa River, together with those of Guayana, Apure, and Barinas. In the dry season its water entirely disappears, when its bed serves to remind the traveler of scenes in lower Egypt.

Guayabal.—This city, founded by Capuchin Fathers in 1785, has 3,146 inhabitants and is situated in a plain on the east bank of a small tributary of the Guárico River. Its most important articles of trade are cattle, hides, skins, sugar, cheese, palm oil, tobacco, honey, and bricks. The place is celebrated in the annals of the war of independence for several defeats sustained there by the Spaniards in 1813 and 1816, during which epoch it was destroyed by fire.

Zaraza.—This city is located in the plains of Guárico, on the Unare River, to which point the river is navigable during the wet season. It is 1,158 kilometers southeast of Caracas. The climate, though warm, is healthy, and the population amounts to 14,546 inhabitants. The principal articles of commerce are cattle, wool, tobacco, and cereals.

LARA STATE.

This State consists of the following districts: Barquisimeto, Bruzual, Cabudare, Crespo, Quíbor, San Felipe, Silva, Sucre, Tocuyo, Torres, Urachiche, and Yaritagua.

Barquisimeto.—This city, the capital of the State, formerly called Nueva Segovia, was founded by Villegas in 1552, and is located 259 kilometers west of Caracas, at an altitude of 518 meters above the level of the sea. It is situated in a spacious plain, where the roads leading to the Táchira, Trujillo, and Mérida States branch to the sections Yaracuy and Portuguesa. Its average annual temperature is 77° F., and the population amounts to 31,476 inhabitants. Its chief articles of commerce are coffee, cacao, beans, sugar, and rum. Its manufactures consist of grass sacks, ropes, and hammocks. Here entered the Spanish pirate Aguirre in 1561, who was killed a short time afterwards, in October of the same year. López de Aguirre, an audacious robber, spread terror throughout South America about the middle of the sixteenth century, during the civil wars in Peru between

the partisans of Pizarro and Almagro. He had been sent by the viceroy, González Pizarro, to explore the country and navigation of the river Amazon, under the command of Don Pedro d'Orsua. The bandits who composed this expedition murdered Orsua because he was a person of morality and a strict disciplinarian. They proclaimed Aguirre their chief and gave him the title of king. After having ravaged New Granada and the island of Trinidad he landed at Margarita and murdered many distinguished persons. Thence he sailed westward and landed at Borburata, on the Venezuelan coast, near Puerto Cabello, where he destroyed his ships and began his march overland to Bogotá, leaving a track of murder and destruction in his path. At Barquisimeto, however, he was brought to bay by the royal troops, when his followers, tired of his cruelty and accepting the royal clemency, deserted him. The patriotic army was decimated in Barquisimeto by the earthquake that destroyed Caracas in 1812, and the Spanish troops soon after occupied the city. The patriots also suffered defeat here on November 10, 1813. Owing to its temperate climate and fertile soil, the surrounding country is well adapted to wheat growing, and large crops of this grain are raised here. All other cereals are also produced in abundance. The important topographical position of Barquisimeto makes it the center of a large and flourishing trade.

Carora.—Founded by Salamanca in 1572, is situated on the Carora River, 321 kilometers west of Caracas and 344 meters above the sea level. Its mean annual temperature is 82° F., and the population amounts to 6,000 inhabitants. Its chief articles of commerce are coffee, hides, and agricultural products.

Tocuyo.—Founded by Carvajal in 1545, is located 64 kilometers southwest of Barquisimeto, and is situated on the Tocuyo River, in an extensive valley 624 meters above the level of the sea. Its mean annual temperature is 79° F., and the population amounts to 15,383 inhabitants. Its principal articles of commerce are coffee, hides, wool, skins, sugar, rum, and Peruvian bark. In the vicinity are mines of silver, copper, iron, lead, bismuth, and antimony. The soil is very fertile and much wheat is grown in this locality. There are also extensive tanneries in and near the city.

Yaritagua.—Is located 33 kilometers east of the city of Barquisimeto, and is situated on a extensive plain 313 meters above the sea level. Its mean annual temperature is 79° F., and the population is 12,000 inhabitants. Its chief articles of commerce are coffee, sugar, tobacco, and cereals. There are several cigar manufactories in the city.

MÉRIDA STATE.

This State consists of the following districts: Campo-Elías, Libertador, Miranda, Pedraza, Rangel, Rivas Dávila, Sucre, Torondoy, and Tovar.

Mérida.—The city of Mérida, the capital of the State, was founded by Rodríguez de Suárez in 1558 and is situated at the foot of the Sierra Nevada Mountains, on an elevated plain near the Chama River. From its site is observed a panorama of natural beauty, such as is rarely seen in any country. It is located 498 kilometers southwest of Caracas and 1,615 meters above the level of the sea. Its mean annual temperature is 61° F., and the population amounts to 12,018 inhabitants. The staple articles of commerce are coffee, sugar, cacao, beans, lumber, rice, wheat, and other cereals. Its manufactures consist of hats, grass sacks, wool blankets, artificial flowers, castor oil, and candles. In the vicinity are located mines of sesqui, carbonate of soda, coal, copper, and petroleum. Mérida is the seat of an university established in 1810, and was created a bishopric by Pope Pius VI in 1775.

MIRANDA STATE.

This State consists of the following districts: Acevedo, Brión, Lander, Monagas, Pérez, Paz Castillo, Plaza, Urdaneta, and Zamora.

Its principal sources of wealth are agriculture and live stock. It embraces parts of the agricultural and pastoral zones of Venezuela and is one of the richest regions of the Torrid Zone.

Ocumare.—This city is the capital of the State. Its original name was Sabana de Ocumare. Founded by the Spanish in 1693, it lies in the Tuy Valley, near the Tuy River, 49 kilometers southeast of Caracas and 213 meters above the sea level. Its mean annual temperature is 79° F., and its population amounts to 9,000 inhabitants. The chief articles of commerce are coffee, sugar, pease, beans, etc. In 1814, during the war of independence, this city was subjected to cruel atrocities by the Spanish chief Rosete, who dragged the citizens from altars of the church, where they had fled for refuge, and put them to death.

Charayave.—This city is situated 35 kilometers south of the city of Caracas, in the famous Tuy Valley, and has a population of 5,700 inhabitants. It was founded by the Spaniards in 1681 under the auspices of Santa Rosa de Lima, and was principally inhabited by friendly Indians, devoted to agriculture, who were brought there by the Capuchin fathers from various localities. The patriot troops, under General Ribas, captured the city from the Spanish forces on February 20, 1814.

Cua.—The city of Cua, so called in honor of the Indian cacique who formerly dwelt there, is situated 40 kilometers south of Caracas, near the Tuy River. Its chief articles of trade consist of coffee, cacao, beans, and sugar. The population amounts to 9,209 inhabitants.

Río Chico.—This city is located near the Tuy River, 6 kilometers from the Caribbean Sea, at 8 meters above the sea level and 109 kilometers southeast of Caracas. Its mean annual temperature is 82° F., and the population amounts to 4,000 inhabitants. Its port, Carenero,

32 kilometers distant, with which it is connected by railway, is located near Cape Codera, and is commodious and safe. There are two deposits of coal near the city. Its commerce, which is important and flourishing, is carried on with La Guaira by means of coastwise steamers that make triweekly voyages. There is communication by telegraph with all parts of the Republic. The staple articles of commerce are coffee, cacao, beans, hides, and all classes of cereals. Its manufactures consist of shoes, candles, and soap.

San Casimiro.—This city is located southeast of Valencia and 67 kilometers south of Caracas. Its population amounts to 8,000 inhabitants. Its chief articles of commerce are coffee, sugar, and cereals. In the vicinity is a valuable deposit of lime, and also sulphur and chalybeate springs.

TÁCHIRA STATE

This State consists of the following districts: Ayacucho, Bolívar, Cárdenas, Castro, Junín, La Grita, Lobatera, Páez, with the municipalities of Elorza, San Cristóbal, and Uribante.

San Cristóbal.—This city is the capital of the Táchira State. It was founded in 1561 by Maldonado, and is situated on a high tableland near the Torbeo River, about 65 kilometers from the boundary between Venezuela and Colombia, and 914 meters above the level of the sea. Its average annual temperature is 70° F., and the population amounts to 14,000 inhabitants. Its principal articles of commerce are coffee, cacao, sugar, tobacco, rice, and vanilla beans. In the vicinity are located mines of silver, copper, iron, coal, and petroleum. Near the city is the village where Bolívar issued his first proclamation previous to the campaign of 1813.

La Grita.—Founded in 1576, by Cáseres, is situated on a high tableland, about 90 kilometers from the boundary between Venezuela and Colombia, and 1,493 meters above the level of the sea. Its average annual temperature is 66° F., and the population amounts to 10,500 inhabitants. Its staple articles of commerce are coffee, sugar, tobacco, rice, wheat, barley, and other cereals. In the vicinity are found mines of copper, coal, and alabaster. The place is celebrated in the annals of the independence for the victory achieved there by the patriots over the royal troops in 1813.

Táriba.—The second city in importance in the Táchira State, is situated 890 meters above the level of the sea, and near the limits of Colombia. Its average annual temperature is 70° F., and the population amounts to 8,500 inhabitants. Its principal articles of commerce are coffee, sugar, and tobacco. In the vicinity are found deposits of coal, sulphur, and gypsum.

TRUJILLO STATE

This State consists of the following districts: Betijoque, Boconó, Carache, Escuque, Trujillo, Urdaneta, and Valera.

Trujillo.—This city is the capital of the Trujillo State, and was founded by Paredes in 1565. It lies 383 kilometers to the southwest of Caracas, and is 451 meters above the sea level. Its mean annual temperature is 72° F., and the population amounts to 10,000 inhabitants. In the vicinity are considerable coal deposits. In 1678 the French, under Grammont, landed on the coast 386 kilometers distant, and marched to Trujillo and burned the city, which, in the annals of the war of independence, is noted as the place where on June 15, 1813, General Bolívar issued the proclamation of extermination against the Spanish troops. There also occurred his triumphal entry on October 17, 1820, where he held several conferences with the Spanish commander, General Morillo, in reference to an armistice proposed by the latter officer.

Betijoque.—This city was founded in 1784, and is located on a high table-land, 795 meters above the sea level. Its average annual temperature is 72° F., and the population amounts to 5,000 inhabitants. Its chief articles of commerce are coffee, sugar, and beans.

Boconó.—This city, founded in the sixteenth century, is situated in one of the most picturesque valleys of the Republic, 1,313 meters above the level of the sea, and 358 kilometers southwest of Caracas. Its average annual temperature is 66° F., and the population amounts to 12,500 inhabitants. Its chief articles of commerce are coffee, sugar, Peruvian bark, and wheat and other cereals. In the vicinity are deposits of rock crystal and calcareous stone.

Carache.—This city, founded in the latter part of the eighteenth century, is situated on the west bank of the Carache River, in a fine valley, 1,207 meters above the level of the sea, and 225 kilometers southwest of Valencia. Its average annual temperature is 66° F., and the population amounts to 7,000 inhabitants. Its staple articles of commerce are coffee, sugar, cotton, and wheat and other cereals.

San Jacinto.—In the Trujillo State, is located on high lands and possesses a healthy and agreeable climate. Its population amounts to 3,500 inhabitants, and the staple articles of commerce are coffee, sugar, tobacco, and wheat and other cereals. In the vicinity are found valuable mines of sulphur and antimony.

San Lázaro.—Founded at the commencement of the last century, and located in the Trujillo State, is situated 17 kilometers southwest of the city of Trujillo, in a valley surrounded by lofty mountains, through which flows the San Lázaro River. Its climate is mild and salubrious. The population amounts to 6,500 inhabitants. Its principal articles of commerce are coffee and sugar.

Pampán.—Founded in 1844, and located in the Trujillo State, is situated on a high table-land surrounded by hills, and is 667 meters above the sea level. Its average annual temperature is 75° F., and the population amounts to 4,000 inhabitants. Its staple articles of trade are coffee, beans, and sugar.

ZAMORA STATE.

This State consists of the following districts: Acarigua, Anzoátegui, Araure, Arismendi, Barinas, Bolívar, Esteller, Girardot, Guanare, Guanarito, Obispos, Ospino, Pao, Ricaurte, Rojas, San Carlos, Sosa, Tinaco, and Turén.

Area and population.—The State of Zamora, occupying an area of 65,300 square kilometers, is bounded on the north by the Carabobo State; on the south by a portion of the Bolívar State; on the east by the Guarico State, and on the west by the former Los Andes State and the Lara State. Its population is about 250,000 inhabitants.

Topography.—The largest portion of the State is composed of vast plains, irrigated by a number of rivers, thus affording excellent lands for cultivation. West of the State runs the chain of the Andes, whose slopes are covered with extensive forests and rich valleys.

Orography.—The highest points in this chain are the peaks or "páramos" of Granate, Santo Domingo, Apure, and Caldera, ranging from 2,743 to 3,657 meters. The State has three large forests—San Camilo, Ticoporo, and Turén—where all classes of woods are abundant. Mahogany is most abundant in the Turén forest, while cacao grows spontaneously in the Ticoporo forest, on which the wild animals feed.

Principal rivers.—The principal rivers in the State are the Portuguesa River, which has its source in the Andes of the State of Lara, and empties into the Apure River, having a course of over 402 kilometers, nearly 289 of which are navigable; the Boconó River, which also comes from the Andes, and is about the same length as the Portuguesa, its navigable waters being about 241 kilometers; the Guanare and the Caparro, emptying into the Portuguesa and the Apure, respectively, having both about the same length, 370 kilometers, a half of which is navigable. The other rivers, all partly navigable, are the Suripá, Uribante, Santo Domingo, Pagüey, Canagua, Masparro, and Cojedes. Fishing is most abundant in all these rivers. The river ports having the largest traffic are Nutrias, on the Apure; Baúl, at the confluence of the Cojedes and Tinaco rivers, and Torunos, on the Santo Domingo.

Means of communication.—The means of communication in the State are the highway leading to Valencia and the highway to Barquisimeto; some mule paths leading to the former State of Los Andes; the river Uribante, flowing into this State, and several other navigable rivers flowing into the Apure, thence to the Orinoco. Several steamboats carry the traffic from the river ports of the State of Zamora to Ciudad Bolívar, touching at the intermediate points. Sail and row boats are also employed in navigation.

Climate.—The climate of the State is either warm, temperate, or cold, according to the altitude above the sea. The high places are cool and healthful. The plains covered with pasture are also healthful.

Stock raising.—Cattle breeding is the main industry of the State,

but there are some districts devoted to agriculture. In the districts of Ospino and Araure swine breeding is of considerable importance, the stock being the best that is raised in Venezuela, and constitutes a trade of considerable magnitude with the State of Zamora and Caracas.

Agricultural products.—The agricultural products are coffee, cacao, cotton, sugar cane, tobacco, indigo, wheat, and produce of all kinds, and fine woods.

Mines.—The State has several mines and thermal springs.

Industries.—The manufacturing industries of the State are sugar-cane products, straw hats, hammocks, earthenware, etc.

The principal cities are:

San Carlos.—San Carlos, capital of the Zamora State, with a population of about 3,000 inhabitants. It became famous during the war of independence, being one of the cities that suffered most the ravages of the war. It is 117 meters above the sea, has some fine buildings, and occupies an excellent position as a commercial center. Its mean annual temperature is 83° F., and is situated on the banks of the Nirgua River at the entrance of the Cojedes plains, and is at a distance of 80 kilometers from Valencia. Its chief articles of commerce are cattle, horses, mules, coffee, sugar, and timber.

Guanare has a population of 5,000 inhabitants, and is about 4 kilometers from the river Guanare, through which communication is effected with Ciudad Bolívar and other towns on the borders of the Orinoco and the Apure rivers. The city has some handsome buildings. The waterworks of the city are very fine. The city is 142 meters above the level of the sea and 350 kilometers distant from Caracas. It was founded in 1593 by F. de Leon, and its mean annual temperature is 82° F. The principal articles of commerce are cattle, coffee, cacao, beans, skins, horses, mules, indigo, cheese, and timber, and it enjoys a large and flourishing trade with Valencia, Puerto Cabello, and Ciudad Bolívar. In the vicinity are found mines of nitrate of potash, sulphate of iron, and chromate of iron.

Barinas has about 2,500 inhabitants, and is situated on the Santo Domingo River, which serves as a means of communication with Ciudad Bolívar. It is in a prosperous condition, due to its excellent position as a commercial town and to the fertility of its grazing lands, where cattle are abundant.

Ospino has about 3,000 inhabitants. It is an agricultural town, breeding being its principal industry. It has good roads leading to Valencia, Guanare, and other towns.

Acarigua has over 3,000 inhabitants, and is noted for the manufacture of straw hats, which are exported in large quantities to foreign lands. Not far from this city is the town of Araure, with about 200 inhabitants. Both towns will eventually form only one city.

Nutrias, on the Apure River, is the most important river port in the State.

There are, besides these cities, several others—Tinaco, Tinaquillo, Pao, Baúl, and others of lesser importance, all noted for agricultural products.

ZULIA STATE

This State consists of the following districts: Bolívar, Colón, Mara, Maracaibo, Miranda, Páez, Perijá, Sucre, and Urdaneta.

Situation.—The State of Zulia is situated in the northwestern part of Venezuela. It is bounded on the north by the Gulf of Maracaibo, on the east by the States of Falcón, Lara, and Trujillo, on the south by the States of Mérida, Falcón, and Trujillo, and on the west by the Republic of Colombia.

Area and population.—The nine districts of which the Zulia State consists have the following area and population:

Districts.	Area.	Population.
	<i>Sq. km.</i>	<i>Inhabitants.</i>
Maracaibo	3, 714	64, 806
Urdaneta	1, 732	8, 785
Perijá	10, 706	6, 724
Colón	16, 858	5, 926
Sucre	4, 485	7, 562
Bolívar	5, 346	8, 049
Miranda	1, 767	8, 674
Mara	1, 825	6, 756
Páez	2, 910	3, 275
Lake of Maracaibo	17, 500	.....
Total	66, 843	120, 307

Districts.—These districts forming the Zulia State are subdivided into municipalities and classified into north, east, south, and west districts, as follows:

Districts.	Names.	Municipalities.	Principal towns.
North	Páez	Sinamaica	Sinamaica (capital).
		Guangira	Paraguaipo.
		San Rafael	San Rafael (capital).
	Mara	Ricaurte	La Rosita.
		Padilla	El Ancón.
Monagas		Palmarajo.	
East	Miranda	Altagracia	Altagracia (capital).
		Farias	Quilairo.
	Bolívar	Santa Rita	Santa Rita (capital).
		Cabimas	Lagunillas.
		Lagunillas	Gibraltar (capital).
South	Sucre	Bobures	Bobures.
		Independencia	San Timoteo.
		Heras	Santa María.
	Colón	General Urdaneta	Palmarito.
		San Carlos	San Carlos (capital).
Santa Cruz		Santa Cruz.	
West	Perijá	Encontrados	Santa Bárbara.
		Urribarri	Machiques (capital).
		Libertad	El Rosario.
	Urdaneta	Rosario	Chiquinquirá (capital).
		Concepción	El Carmelo.
Chiquinquirá		Maracaibo (capital).	
Maracaibo	Bolívar	Carmelo	San Francisco.
		Santa Bárbara	Bella Vista.
		Chiquinquirá	Santa Rosa.
	Cristo de Aranza	Santa Lucía	
		San Francisco	

Topography.—The Zulia State may be considered as an immense valley, having in its center the lake of Maracaibo, from the coasts of which the land rises toward the interior until it reaches the mountain ranges situated to the east, south, and west. Great diversity of climate, from the tropical to that of perpetual snow, may be found in the different altitudes, and the soil is sedimentary and marshy at the coasts of the lake, and covered with extensive forests of precious woods toward the mountains, where all kinds of tropical products grow and are cultivated.

Hydrography.—The hydrography of the Zulia State consists of maritime and continental hydrographies. The former refers to the Gulf of Venezuela or sac of Maracaibo, bounded between the Paraguaná and Guagira peninsulas, having an area of about 17,000 square kilometers and a bar of movable sand banks at the north of the Maracaibo Gulf, which commences at the parallel of Cape San Román.

The continental hydrography refers to the lake of Maracaibo, to the lagoons, and to the rivers of the State. The Maracaibo Lake is the largest of South America, as it covers an area of 17,500 square kilometers and measures 200 kilometers in length and from 10 to 120 in breadth and has a maximum depth of 17 meters. It is situated at $9^{\circ} 2'$ and $11^{\circ} 01'$ latitude north, and from $3^{\circ} 43'$ to $5^{\circ} 51'$ longitude west of the Caracas meridian. Its hydrographical basin comprises an area of 100,000 square kilometers. The Maracaibo Lake receives the waters of over 500 rivers and rivulets and over 500 creeks, and is placed in communication with the gulf of the same name by means of 4 channels, the largest of which has a width of 2,916 meters.

The State possesses many lagoons, all of which are surrounded by rich vegetation. The principal lagoons are Laguneta del Zulia, Laguna de Doncellas, Sinamaica, Lagunillas, Valderramas, Aguas Negras, and Aguas Claras.

Rivers.—It is estimated that more than 500 rivers and smaller streams water the State and empty into the lake. The principal streams contributing their waters to the lake are the Catatumbo, Zulia, Motatán, Escalante, and Socui. The Catatumbo is over 300 kilometers in length and navigable for more than 200. On the left bank are plantations of cacao and other products of lesser importance. Domestic articles and foreign goods imported through the Maracaibo custom-house are transported by the Zulia and the Catatumbo rivers.

At the point where the Zulia flows into the Catatumbo is observable the phenomenon of incessant lightning, which the natives call the Maracaibo beacon, and which at times may be seen from the Gulf of Maracaibo at sea, before crossing the bar.

The Motatán River rises in the wilderness of Mucuchíes, and runs a distance of 300 kilometers, 100 of which are navigable from the lake up stream. It affords a means of communication with the Trujillo State.

The Escalante River is also navigable. It rises in the snowy height of Yegüines in the Táchira State, and is navigable for more than 100 kilometers.

The Socui has its source in the Perijá range, and is called the Limón near its entrance into the Sinamaica lagoon. It has a length of 200 kilometers and is navigable for half that distance. Coconut palms and corn plantations abound on the meadows of this river.

The Tarra and Chamas rivers are also navigable in part and tributary to the lake.

Orography.—Two mountain ranges, one to the east and the other to the west, form the natural boundaries of the State. The first separates the Zulia State from those of Falcón and Lara. The second branches off from the Andes of Pamplona toward the north and its peaks rise to a height of 1,245 meters and form the boundary of Colombia.

Climate.—The climate in the State of Zulia is generally healthful, excepting such regions as are covered with thick forests or marshy lands. Heat is constant, though mitigated by the north and south winds.

Products.—Sugar cane, cocoanuts, bananas, corn, and a great variety of tropical fruits are produced in the State. The annual product of 74 sugar plantations in the State, 50 of which have iron sugar mills and 24 wooden, is estimated at 800,000 bolívars (about \$160,000).

The annual production of cocoanuts is estimated at 17,250,000, with a total estimated value of 5,000,000 bolívars (about \$1,000,000). This nut grows on the banks of the lake, where its oil is extracted and the refuse used for fattening swine.

The annual production of corn is calculated to be 86,000 fanegas; of bananas, 11,000,000 bunches; of cacao, 102,000 kilograms; of rice, 100,000 kilograms; of tobacco, 9,000 kilograms, and of cotton, 4,000 kilograms.

Maracaibo coffee.—The coffee exported from Maracaibo is produced in Los Andes and Colombia, the production of the State not being great. Besides the articles named there are others which contribute to the trade of the State, such as beans, yucca and its products, squashes, etc.

Among the products of spontaneous growth, freely exploited without cultivation, the following must be mentioned: dividivi (*caesalpinia cor.*), fustic, mangrove wood, and copaiba, which yield over 750,000 bolívars (about \$150,000) annually.

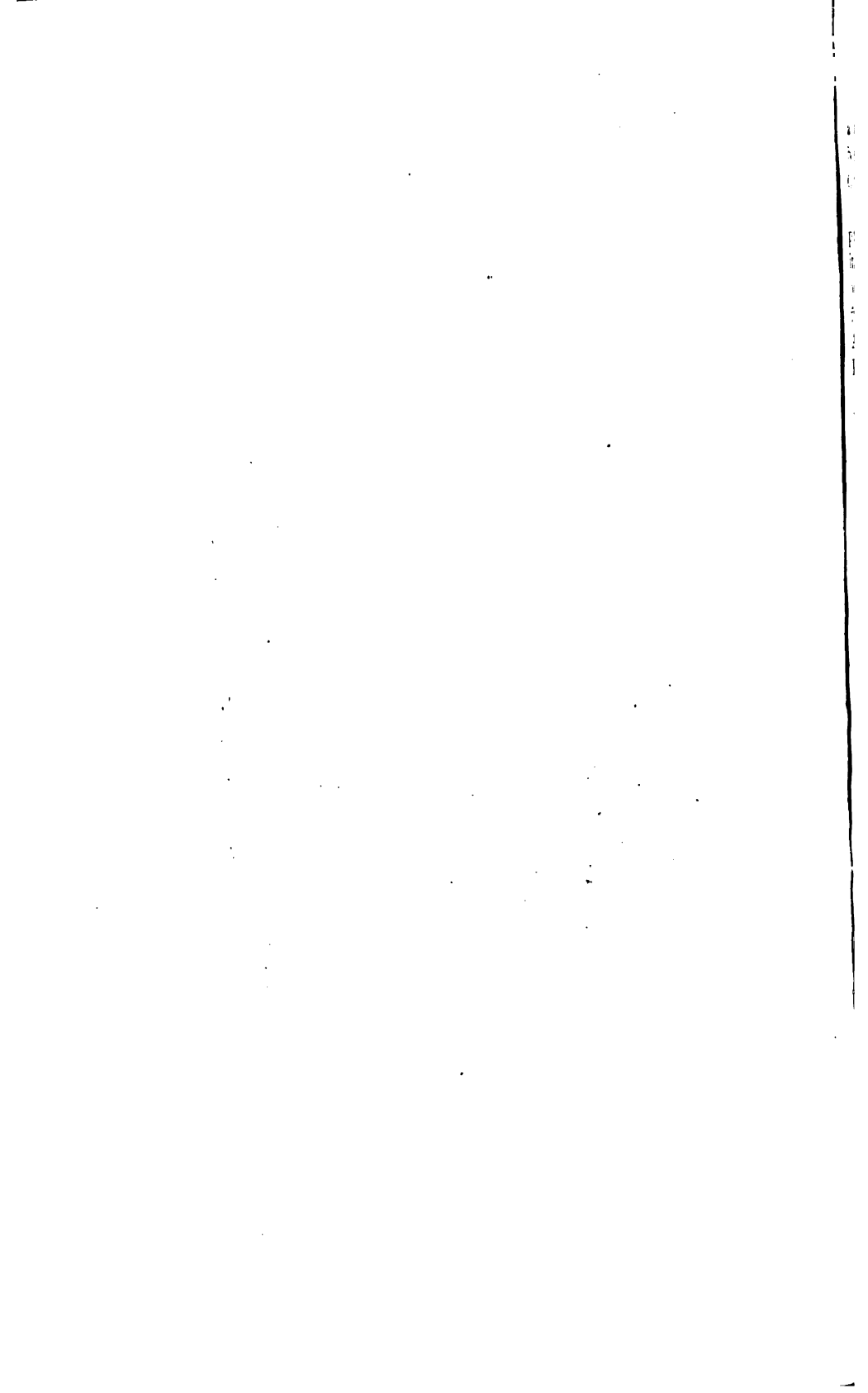
Stock raising.—Cattle breeding produces over 30,000 head of cattle and nearly 200,000 "arrobas" (about 5,000,000 pounds) of cheese per annum. Goats and poultry are also raised in large numbers.

Fish and game.—Game and several species of fish abound in the lakes and rivers, forming a part of the industry and trade of the country.



BIRD'S-EYE VIEW OF THE CENTRAL PART OF MARACAIBO.

This view represents one-fourth of the picture. (Courtesy of the Zulia Government.)



Mineral products.—The State of Zulia is also rich in mineral products; among which are asphalt, coal, and petroleum. There are several salt beds in the State; the principal being Salina Rica, Sinamaica, and Oribor.

Maracaibo, capital of the State, is one of the most important and progressive cities in the Republic, with a population of 49,817 inhabitants, of which 22,497 are males and 27,320 females. It is situated on the western shore of Lake Maracaibo, and is 35 kilometers distant from the sea and 833 from Caracas, and was founded in 1529 by Abraham Alfinger. Later it was called Nueva Zamora by Alonzo de Pacheco.

This section was originally discovered by Ojeda, who, seeing the huts of the Indians built on piles over the water near the site of the city, called the place *Venezuela*, or Little Venice, by which name the western part of the country, as far as Caracas to the east, was formerly known, and which was given later to the whole captaincy-general and afterwards to the Republic of Venezuela.

Harbor.—Its harbor is extensive and safe, and is visited daily by a large number of steam and sail vessels, carrying the products of the several districts of the State, and from the Mérida, Trujillo, and Táchira States, and the State of Santander in Colombia. Maracaibo maintains important commercial relations with foreign markets, with the interior, and with Colombia, it being the port of transit for goods intended for Colombia.

From Maracaibo hundreds of small craft, suitable for shallow water, daily start and carry on the trade on the coast and rivers tributary to the lake.

It is the starting point also for passenger and freight steamers, and the railroad lines of the Trujillo and Táchira States, which are growing in importance, extend rail communication with the remotest regions in the interior of the country.

Education.—The number of schools supported by the State of Zulia in 1898 was 56, attended by 1,879 pupils, at a yearly expense of 38,496 bolívars.

Of the other schools, 45 are national, supported by the Federal Government. They are attended by 2,114 children. There are 36 private schools, some only preparatory, with an attendance of 720 pupils.

The University of Zulia and the Bolívar, Cajigal, and Sacred Heart of Jesus colleges, the Commercial Institute of Zulia, and Academy of Our Lady of Lourdes, the Immaculate Conception, and San Luis Gonzaga are not included among the schools mentioned. Six hundred pupils receive instruction in these latter institutions.

Public library.—The State supports a public library; the University of Zulia another, and there are besides the libraries belonging to the mutual aid and members' aid societies.

There are 3 tramway lines, electric plants for lighting the city, telegraph, telephone, and submarine cable, 2 clubs, 5 hotels, 17 inns, and 24 restaurants, and all modern improvements.

Principal buildings.—The most important buildings of the city are the executive mansion, public market, legislative palace, municipal building, the Baralt Theater, university, the custom-house, new jail, and the seven churches—the Cathedral, Santa Bárbara, Rosario, San Juan de Dios, San Francisco, Santa Ana, Santa Lucía, and a Masonic temple. Besides public buildings Maracaibo has 6,337 houses, 56 different streets, and the area of the city is about 44,000,000 square meters.

Squares.—In the two public squares of the city are several statues of Gen. Rafael Urdaneta, one of the most conspicuous champions of the war of independence, and of Don Rafael María Baralt, an eminent literary man, born in Maracaibo, who wrote the history of Venezuela, and died in Madrid, being a member of the Royal Spanish Academy.

Shipyard.—There is in Maracaibo a dockyard for the construction of sailing vessels.

Revenue.—The revenues of the State during the fiscal year 1894–95 reached 2,219,177.10 bolívars; the expenditures during the same period were 2,209,279.62 bolívars.

Altavracia has over 7,000 inhabitants, and is built on the eastern shore of the lake, almost opposite to Maracaibo. It has valuable commercial relations with its own State and towns in the States of Lara and Falcón. The district has coasts on the lake and on the gulf. The principal sources of wealth are agriculture, fishing, and commerce.

San Carlos del Zulia lies on the Escalante River, which serves as the natural channel for communication with the lake on the north and the interior country on the south, by means of both steam launches and sailboats. Fishing and agriculture are the main industries of the district.

Santa Rita lies on the lake southeast of Maracaibo. The town has two fine bridges. The principal industries of the district are the cultivation of cocoanuts and the breeding of goats.

Sinamaica has over 1,000 inhabitants, among them some Indians, who preserve their primitive habits and customs, and live on the products of game and fishing. There are three salt deposits in its vicinity.

There are other towns of more or less importance.

FEDERAL TERRITORIES.

Organization.—According to the constitution, promulgated on April 27, 1904, the Federal Territories shall be organized by special laws. Federal Territories can not be incorporated as States unless they have a population of at least 100,000 inhabitants and prove to Congress

that they are able to meet the expense of all the branches of the public service. (Art. 4 of the Constitution.)

Federal Territories are each presided over by a governor and are under the direct administration of the executive power of the Republic.

Number of Territories.—The constitution in force establishes that the Federal Territories are five in number, namely, Amazonas, Cristóbal Colón, Colón, Delta Amacuro, and Yuruari.

AMAZONAS TERRITORY.

Boundaries.—The Amazonas Territory is situated in the region of the forests, its boundaries being as follows: The State of Bolívar on the north, the Republic of Colombia on the west, on the east the State of Bolívar, and the Republic of Brazil on the south.

Population.—The population of the Territory is estimated at about 46,000 inhabitants, divided as follows: 12,000 civilized Indians, 33,000 uncivilized, 200 natives of other States of the Republic, and about 700 foreigners. The Indians are grouped in several tribes, the principal being the Maquitarés, the Vanivas, the Puinabos, the Guahibos, the Piaroas, the Macos, and the Vares. The Territory is divided into four districts.

Capital city.—San Fernando de Atabapo is the capital of the Territory.

Orography.—The eastern portion of the Territory comprises large forests, with rivers, ranges, plains, and savannas. The Orinoco River bathes the central portion, dividing the Territory into two parts. On the western portion great plains are found extending as far as Colombia. The ranges in the Territory belong to the Parima system, its highest peaks being Macaragua, 2,293 meters altitude; Duida and Zamuro, over 1,828 meters each.

Navigable rivers.—The navigable rivers in the Territory are numerous, the principal being the Orinoco, Meta, Ventuario, Guaviare, and Vichada, Inírida, and Guainía. The last river mentioned takes the name of Río Negro upon entering the Casiquiare, and, running through Brazil, empties into the Amazonas. The most remarkable lagoon in the Territory is Vasiva, where turtles are abundant.

Natural products.—The natural products, in which the trade is large, are rubber, sarsaparilla, copaiba, tonka beans, tar, and wild cacao; and those of the Indian industry are "chiquichique" (*Attalea funifera*) cords and ropes, hammocks, launches, fermented drinks, etc.

Commerce.—Trade consists in the exchange of cloths and provisions from Ciudad Bolívar and Brazil for the natural products of the Territory and those of the Indian industry. Traffic is more active through the region around the Guainía and Casiquiare rivers, and portions of the Orinoco and Atabapo rivers. Communication with Ciudad Bolívar

is effected by the Orinoco; with Brazil by the Río Negro and affluents and by land, and with British Guiana by the waterways of the rivers Padamo, Cuyuni, and Esequibo.

COLÓN TERRITORY.

The Territory comprises the following Venezuelan islands on the Caribbean Sea, namely: Blanquilla, Los Hermanos, Frailes, Sola, Testigos, Esmeraldas, Venados, Caracas, Picudas, Chimanas, Borracha, Arapos, Monos, Píritu, Farallón, Ocumare, Orchila, Los Roques, Aves, Los Monjes and several small islands.

Capital city.—Gran Roque, in the Roques group, is the capital of the Territory. Almost all the islands are uninhabited.

Natural products.—The natural products of the Colón Territory are phosphate of lime, guano, lime, woods, and fish. In Orchila a plant is found by the same name which is exported in large quantities for industrial purposes. There are salt deposits and mangrove groves in Los Roques.

No data were available, at the time this volume was printed, regarding the Federal Territories Cristóbal Colón (capital Cristóbal Colón), Delta Amacuro (capital San José de Amacuro), and Yuruari (capital Guacipati).

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CHAPTER V.

AGRICULTURE: NATURAL WEALTH AND RESOURCES—FOREST AND ANIMAL PRODUCTS—PUBLIC-LAND LAW.

AGRICULTURE.

Agricultural zone.—According to official statistics, the agricultural region of Venezuela covers an area of 349,481 square kilometers, extending from the Atlantic Ocean to the limits with Colombia and embracing the territory between the Caribbean seacoast and the plains of the Orinoco on the southern boundary of the Republic.

Fertility of soil.—The fertility of the soil; its perfect adaptability to the growth and maturity of the staple agricultural products, so essential to the existence of man and beast; the mild climate, with all the necessary conditions of temperature, humidity, healthfulness, etc., together with the gradual increase of facilities for communication and transportation, and its geographical position, all render it one of the most attractive and profitable regions for agricultural pursuits.

Prospect of growth.—Twenty per cent of Venezuela's population is engaged in agricultural pursuits. This proportion, however, is not sufficient for an extensive development of the natural resources of this vast zone, as a population one hundredfold greater could derive a comfortable subsistence from the agricultural region. Therefore, with an increase in the population, with greater transportation facilities, the introduction of new arts and sciences, and more general application of modern machinery and implements, this region is bound to become one of the most prosperous and richest agricultural fields of the world.

Agricultural products.—The principal agricultural products of Venezuela are coffee, cacao, sugar, tobacco, india rubber, tonka beans, cotton, corn, vanilla, and wheat. The most important farinaceous root products are apio, sweet potatoes, ñame, cassava, yuca, yams, mapuey, and Irish potatoes. The vegetable seeds consist of wetches, beñe seed, pease, beans, peanuts, okra, and many others. The chief vegetable plants are cabbage, cauliflower, melons, asparagus, turnips, radishes, beets, egg plants, garlic, pepper, celery, carrots, cresses, onions, spinach, lettuce, artichokes, mustard, etc.

Fruit.—The fruits of Venezuela, many of which are of considerable size and delicate flavor, include oranges, large sweet lemons, limes, plantains, bananas (of which there is a great variety), pineapples, pomegranates, figs, grapes, strawberries, plums, breadfruit, chestnuts, guava, alligator pears, cocoanuts, guanábanas, papayas, cacao plums, mangoes, mameyes, zapotes, parchas, medlars, tamarinds, cactus fruit, and a great quantity of other tropical fruits.

STAPLE PRODUCTS.

The following are the staple products of Venezuela:

COFFEE.^a

First cultivation.—The cultivation of coffee in Venezuela began in the year 1784. The first seeds were brought from Martinique by Mollano, who started the first farm in Blandín (neighborhood of Caracas). The first shipment took place in 1789, and consisted of 233 bags; in 1808 the exports already amounted to 30,000 bags.

Number of coffee trees.—The number of coffee trees existing in Venezuela may be approximately reckoned at 250,000,000.

Production.—Venezuela produces annually about 1,000,000 bags of coffee, and present statistics place her in the *second rank* among coffee-growing countries. Several causes, first of these being the low prices of the bean, which do not admit of its being cultivated in less-favored spots, have contributed to a falling off in the output. The cultivation is effected on high plains as well as on mountains.

Soils.—The lands are alluvial, the best being clayey with sand (silicious), and reddish and pebbly (diorites).

Climate and altitude.—The climate is temperate, and the altitudes vary between 500 and 2,000 meters, those of about 500 to 1,000 being considered the best suited to this industry.

Sowing.—The sowing is done by digging holes of about 22 centimeters deep by the same width and planting 1,600 to 1,900 shoots per hectare (14,383 square yards).

Planting.—Practice has shown that coffee trees can not live without shade; therefore guamo (*inga laurina*) and bucare trees are planted at distances of 8 to 10 meters, in order to secure the necessary protection. Guamo grows to a height of 10 to 20 meters and bucare (*erythrina umbrosa*) to 20 and 30; both lose their leaves periodically, and these become a fine manure for the coffee plantations.

Yield per tree.—The yield may be estimated at one-fourth or one-half pound per tree, or about 400 to 950 pounds per hectare.

Duration.—Coffee plantations last fifty years in good condition.

^a Abstract from Venezuelan Delegates' report to Coffee Congress, 1902. 57th Cong., S. Doc. No. 35, pp. 132-144.

Cost of production.—Cultivation expenses on a farm of 100,000 trees, sown on a surface of 58 hectares, 1,700 shoots, more or less, per hectare (14,383 square yards), are as follows:

Cost of production or exploitation.

	Bolivars.
Two cleansings or gatherings, at 16 bolivars (58 by 32).....	1, 856
Pruning, at 16 bolivars per hectare, half each year.....	464
Clearing brushes and replanting in the shade	200
Brushes and coffee replantings	400
A foreman, at 120 bolivars per month	1, 440
Total	4, 360

Gathering, dressing, and sale of the bean.

Expenses per quintal, including bags, baskets, and corporal.	Production per tree.		
	One-fourth pound (250 quintals).	One-half pound (375 quintals).	One-half pound (500 quintals).
	<i>Bolivars.</i>	<i>Bolivars.</i>	<i>Bolivars.</i>
Gathering and freight to the office, at 6 bolivars.....	2, 000	3, 000	4, 000
Dressing at office, at 4 bolivars.....	1, 000	1, 500	2, 000
Freight to port, varying according to distance from farm, at 4 bolivars	1, 000	1, 500	2, 000
Bags, commission, interest, and other expenses, at 2 bolivars	500	750	1, 000
Total	4, 500	6, 750	9, 000
Annual cost of cultivation, as stated, which is always the same ..	3, 600	4, 360	4, 360
Grand total	8, 860	11, 110	13, 360

The quintal of 100 Spanish pounds costs the farmer, according to these figures, in the three cases, 35.44, 29.60, 26.72 bolivars. Say, for every 50 kilos sold in Venezuela, 39.06, 32.63, 29.46 bolivars; from Caracas to Valencia, including cost of bags, per 50 kilos more or less, maritime freight, insurance, and selling discount, 4, 4, 4 bolivars; 1½ selling commission, brokerage, etc., 6, 6, 6 bolivars; total charges, 49.06, 42.63, 39.46 bolivars. So that the producer has got to sell in Caracas, according to the bounty of his crop in a given year, per hundredweight of 100 Spanish pounds, 35.44 bolivars if the output was 250 hundredweight (quintals); 29.60 bolivars if the output was 375 hundredweight (quintals); 26.72 bolivars if the output was 500 hundredweight (quintals); and if he exports it, selling his drafts at par, as is the practice, he has got to sell in Havre or Hamburg each 50 kilos for 49.06, 42.63, and 39.46 bolivars, respectively. And this will only bring him in the net cost of his crop, this reckoning not including interest of capital, nor value of the farm, nor interest paid to the lender on loans received, nor on expenses for, repairs to buildings, roads, etc. Few farmers can nowadays carry on the cultivation of coffee under these conditions.

Markets for Venezuelan coffees.—The different qualities of Venezuelan coffees have each their special markets. Extra fine qualities

command the best prices in France, Germany, and Austria. All the coffee exported from Maracaibo finds a ready market in the United States, and medium grades sell equally there and in Europe. England is not a favorable market for Venezuelan coffee.

Grades of coffee.—Thrashed coffees are classed as follows: The big bean, 17 to 18 millimeters long by 9 millimeters broad, elliptical shape, even grain, clean, oily, blue or green, with silvery down or without it, is ranked as coffee of the best quality, and next the mountain coffees, big or medium-sized seed, with or without down, and of a washed-out color. This kind contains several subdivisions, according to color, selection, aroma, and dressing.

Blue and green coffees.—Blue coffees grow on high ground near the coast, at altitudes ranging from 800 to 1,200 meters above sea level. Green coffees are produced on inland mountains and at lower altitudes. All these coffees are known under the general denomination of "Cold land coffees."

Thrashed.—Thrashed coffees of small size are harvested in inland valleys, and are known as "hot land." The bean is 11 to 12 millimeters long and 7 millimeters in its broader dimensions across the center. These coffees constitute the third grade among thrashed ones, and are subdivided into two kinds, viz, the light ground and soft bean coming from sandy lands, and the yellowish bean, dark green, grown on clayey soil.

Unwashed.—The coffees styled in the United States "unwashed" are known in France as "non gragés." These are dressed by drying in their own shell, then pestled or harrowed by machinery or by hand. There is a great variety of coffees under this denomination. The thrashed coffees, of a golden hue, big bean, and rich aroma, grown in the vicinities of Caracas, Carabobo, Villa de Cura, and Villa Morín, bring 4 bolivars more than Valencia and Barquisimeto kinds, the grains of which are smaller.

Maracaibo coffee.—The mountain ranges, otherwise the States of Mérida, Trujillo, and Táchira, cultivate extensively the coffees known in New York as "Maracaibos." The coffees from the above-named States enjoy greater preference in the United States and attain better prices than in Europe. They are known by the names of Tovar, Boconó, Mérida, and Trujillo.

Venezuelan coffees are not in any way hampered by the sanitary laws of any country.

Dry and wet processes.—The processes employed in Venezuela for dressing coffee are two: First, the primitive system of drying it in its own husk by spreading same on brick or cement yards and shelling it afterwards by different mechanical means, such as in mortars, etc. This process produces the thrashed coffee and is called "the dry process." The wet process consists in spreading the red pulp by means

of native pulping machines, thoroughly washing the coffee, drying it under the sun or by means of fire driers, and removing husks by machinery. The buildings consist of halls for the machinery, cement or brick yards, galleries, and warehouses. On some of the Venezuelan plants large sums of money have been invested.

Means of transportation.—The distances from the coffee plantations in so vast a country as Venezuela do not admit of a correct estimate being made of the cost of transportation from the growing districts. In the region of Los Andes, composed of the States of Mérida, Trujillo, and Táchira, and crossed by mountains that produce large quantities of coffee, as being the most suitable to this cultivation, freights are high, in spite of the railway lines that make transportation easier. The traffic is by rail, by cart or wagon roads, and by beasts of burden. In the latter case each animal carries 75 to 150 pounds. The cost of this kind of transportation is reckoned at 5 cents per arroba of 25 pounds per day of travel.

Cost of freight.—Generally speaking, the freight upon coffee for export by La Guaira and Puerto Cabello may be reckoned at 10 bolivars per 100 kilos from the farm to the shipping port and within a radius of 200 kilometers.

	Cents.
The freight per 100 kilos of coffee from La Guaira to New York is (in American gold)	62
From Puerto Cabello to New York	58
From Coro to New York	74
From Maracaibo to New York	99

La Guaira and Puerto Cabello ship coffee to Europe (via New York) with option of the following ports:

	Shillings.
Amsterdam, Antwerp, Bremen, Havre, Hamburg, Liverpool, and Rotterdam, at (per ton of 1,000 kilos)	42
For Bordeaux and Marseilles	47½
For Trieste and Naples	63
For Genoa	52½

(The freight from Maracaibo is 10 to 15 shillings higher.)

By direct steamers the freights are (per ton):

	Francs.
Marseilles	50
Genoa	60
Trieste	75

The means of transportation include fast steamers of direct lines that call regularly at ports which in harvest times increase the number of their steamers. La Guaira and Puerto Cabello during such times clear 14 to 16 steamers per month, greatly facilitating transportation. The present freight from these ports is 43.75 francs per ton for Havre, Hamburg, and Bordeaux.

Intermediaries.—The first intermediary is the commission merchant, who advances money on the crops, charging 1 per cent interest per

month (as happens in the principal cities of Venezuela). He receives the consignment and charges a selling commission of 2 per cent. Coffee is sold in the mercantile cities of Venezuela to exporters by the agency of brokers. The latter collect from the buyer a brokerage of 10 cents per bag of 130 pounds. Then it is sold in Europe through commission houses.

	New York.	Havre.	Trieste.	Hamburg.
	<i>Per cent.</i>	<i>Per cent.</i>	<i>Per cent.</i>	<i>Per cent.</i>
Discount upon the selling price	2	1½	1	1
Selling commission	2½	1-2	1	2
Brokerage	1 to 1½	1	1 to 1½	1 to 1½
Marine insurance	1 to 1½	1	1 to 1½	1 to 1½

Sundry expenses at the rate of 15 cents per bag.

These charges amount to 6 bolivars (marine insurance included) for each 50 kilos, taking as a basis a sale of ordinary coffee at 50 francs per 50 kilos.

Exchange rate at par.—The exchange in Venezuela on Europe and the United States is at par. The country is one of the few Latin-American nations that have succeeded in maintaining the gold standard. During the year 1903 francs upon Paris banking houses have fluctuated between 99 and 102 bolivars. The country throughout is mono-metalist (absolutely nothing but gold), and is opposed to all paper money.

Direct exports.—A few Venezuelan exporters offer their coffee direct to the roasters in Europe, and by these means they save certain small commissions, and also obtain a slight increase of price for their coffee.

Price of coffee.—Central and South American coffees that are selling now on the New York Exchange at about 5½ cents are retailing at from 15 to 25 cents per pound in quantities.

Value of Venezuelan coffees, 1902.

La Guaira.	Caracas. (100 Spanish pounds).	Hamburg. (50 kilos.)	New York. (50 kilos.)
	<i>Bolivars.</i>	<i>Marks.</i>	<i>Cents.</i>
Washed, hot lands	36-46	37.45	94-113
Mountain	40-52	39.49	94-113
Cold land superior	46-60	45.69	94-113
Caracas unwashed or thrashed	30-36	32.35	77-88
Puerto Cabello unwashed or thrashed	28-34	30.38	64-74
Maracaibo, Trujillo			71-81
Boconó and Tovar			71-81
Mérida (washed)			84-114

Roasting process.—The process of roasting the coffee causes it to lose 15 to 20 per cent of its weight. The cost of roasting, packing, etc., does not exceed 1½ cents per pound.

Coffee quoted at	\$6.00
Plus loss of 20 per cent in the weight	1.20
Roasting, packing, etc	1.50
Is worth	8.70

Rio and Maracaibo coffees are retailed (roasted) at 15 cents per pound.

Coffee quoted at.....	\$15.00
Plus loss of 20 per cent in the weight.....	3.00
Roasting, packing, etc.....	1.50
Is worth.....	19.50

Java, La Guaira fine, and Bogotá are retailed (roasted) at 25 cents per pound.

Venezuela does not levy upon coffee any national or municipal tax.

Management of plantations.—The manager in many cases is the owner; others employ a foreman, who earns generally 120 bolivars per month. But of the methods employed the one that gives better results is the jobbing work—payment by contract for the amount of labor done.

Cost of labor.—The laborers are native, good hands as a rule, even tempered, docile, and sociable. The hands look after the farming, and are paid 40 to 50 cents gold per day of seven to eight hours. They live separately in huts of their own construction, and feed upon cereals and meat grown in the country at a low cost.

Outlook of future development.—Not far from the coast, and under conditions very favorable for the cultivation of coffee, there are extensive mountain lands and thick woods that have never been cultivated. In these localities rains are frequent. On the other hand, it happens that many of the farms existing at the present time are situated in regions nearly all denuded of woods and where rains are seldom, for which reason they are liable to droughts that weaken the plants and considerably diminish the output.

Venezuela's principal article of export is coffee, of which a great quantity is consumed in the United States, in the markets of which it is known under the names of "Caracas" and "Maracaibo," the former of these including coffees from the center of the country exported through La Guaira, Puerto Cabello, and Cumaná, and the "Maracaibo" brand embraces those from the Zulia and Los Andes region, Trujillo, Mérida, Tovar, Boconó, San Cristóbal, etc. The coffee exports from Venezuela to the United States, principally those from La Guaira and Puerto Cabello, which in 1888 amounted to 242,890 bags, decreased in 1893 to 3,718 bags, owing to the absence of a reciprocity treaty between 1892 and 1894. When the retaliatory duties of 1894 were repealed, the importation of these coffees again commenced to increase. The imports of coffee from Maracaibo, which also decreased considerably during that time, have again commenced to slowly increase, to the extent that nearly the whole crop from that locality now comes to this market.

CACAO.

Cacao zone.—The natural product (*Theobroma edelo*—theobroma, meaning "Food of the Gods") from which the chocolate of commerce

is made is the fruit of a tree indigenous to the soil of Venezuela, which possesses one of the choicest cacao zones of the world.

Height of trees.—The tree grows to the average height of 4 meters and from 12 to 20 centimeters in diameter, with spreading boughs, is of hardy growth, and, though requiring more attention than the coffee tree, its equally reliable crops necessitate comparatively little labor in preparing them for the market.

Profitable cultivation.—The cacao tree, for full development and remunerative crops, requires a temperature of 80° F. As the cacao-producing region of the world is comparatively restricted, the planter of this product need not fear the steady competition that has been encountered in the cultivation of other staple products. Besides these conditions of temperature cacao needs a moist and humid atmosphere, so the lands along the Caribbean coast, sloping from the mountain tops to the shore, bedewed by the exhalations of the sea and irrigated by the numerous rivulets that course down the valleys, are found to be in all respects well adapted to the profitable cultivation of cacao.

Plantations.—A cacao plantation is laid out in the same manner as an apple orchard, except that the young stocks may be transplanted from the nursery after two months' growth. No preparation of the soil is necessary and no manures are applied. One acre will accommodate about one hundred trees, and, like coffee, they must be protected from the sun by shade trees, such as the bucare and banana, until they have acquired normal size. Small trenches must be maintained, so that every week a stream of water conveniently near may be turned into channels and bear the moisture to the soil.

Production.—Five years after planting the trees begin to bear two crops a year, ripening in June and December. Generally all of the trees produce throughout the year, but in small quantity. The average age of the tree is about forty years, during which time the crop will yield from 225 to 275 kilograms per acre.

Gathering of crop.—The bean, or seed, is very similar in appearance to the shelled almond. Sixty or eighty are inclosed in an elongated pod, bribed like the muskmelon and colored like the eggplant, which, on ripening, assumes a reddish hue. A peculiarity of the tree is that it bears the fruit from the lower trunk, as well as from the branches. Upon ripening the pods are gathered and heaped in piles on the ground, where, after a few days, they ferment and burst, when the seed must be shelled and housed.

Grades of cacao.—Two grades of cacao are found in Venezuela—*criollo* cacao, which is the native cacao, and *trinitario* cacao, which was imported from Trinidad. The *criollo* cacao grows wild in the valleys situated near the sea, where the temperature is warm and moist. It is of a very high grade, and sells for \$14 to \$24 a fanega, or 50 kilograms. The most important plantations are found between La Guaira, Puerto Cabello, and Barlovento, at an altitude of 500 meters. The

trinitario is inferior in quality to the *criollo*, but it grows more rapidly. This cacao is extensively planted at present, and although it is bitter in taste compared with the *criollo*, which is much sweeter, it is readily sold. The *trinitario* sells for \$12 to \$18 the fanega. The annual production of cacao in Venezuela is about 8,000 tons, average crop.

The "Chuao" plantation produces a grade of cacao which on account of its sweetness and other qualities commands the exceptionally high market price of \$40 to \$45 the 50 kilograms, and is nearly all exported to France.

Markets for cacao.—The demand for cacao in Europe is regular and very large. In Spain, Italy, and Mexico it is principally used in the form of chocolate, while in France, Germany, and England it is chiefly employed in the manufacture of confections. Its use is becoming so varied and extensive that it must soon be as really, if not as universally, a staple article of consumption as coffee or tea.

The cacao of Venezuela also finds a ready sale in the United States, in the markets of which it is known, like coffee, by the names of "Caracas" and "Maracaibo," the former embracing the cacao coming from Río Caribe, Guiria, Carúpano, Río Chico, Higuerote, and other places on the eastern coast; the other grade comes from the States of Zulia, Mérida, Trujillo, and Táchira.

SUGAR CANE.

The sugar cane (*saccharum officinarum*) is of great importance in Venezuela and is cultivated with good results. The climate and the fertile soil are the principal factors in its extensive production. Sugar cane grows everywhere in Venezuela except in the mountainous parts, which is due to lack of irrigation.

Species of sugar cane.—There are four species of sugar cane cultivated in Venezuela, viz: The indigenous, called *Criolla*, the *Otaití*, the *Batavian*, adapted especially to the production of rum, and the *Salangore*. The *Criolla* is the most used on account of its sweetness and the good results.

Plantations.—The sugar plantations are divided into *tablones* 90 meters square, each lot separated by a road. The sowing and reaping of the sugar cane is effected in such a way that the plantation is under production the whole year round. The soil has to be kept well irrigated.

Machinery.—Every plantation has a special building equipped with the necessary machinery and implements for the manufacture of the different sugar-cane products.

Products.—The sugar-cane products are *papelón* (brown sugar), sugar, alcohol, and rum.

Alcohol.—The plantation which produces the largest quantity of alcohol is situated in the vicinity of Caracas, the output being from 10,000 to 15,000 loads of the liquid during a year. It amounts to

from 800,000 to 1,200,000 bottles, and manufactures besides about 3,000 loads of brown sugar of 192,000 pieces, weighing 304,814 kilograms. This plantation has 300 cultivated *tablones*, and owns much uncultivated ground which is good and fertile. The plant of this plantation is worth many hundred thousand dollars.

Sugar.—The plantation which produces the greatest quantity of sugar is located in the State of Zulia, near the city of Maracaibo, and at a short distance from the lake of the same name. It produces a good quality of sugar, which is refined and boxed in tabulets of half a pound and exported for nearly all the country in boxes containing 46 kilograms. Its plant, estimated to be worth \$500,000, is one of the best of the kind for the manufacture of refined sugar, though there is another plantation situated near La Guaira that has a good plant which makes granulated sugar. The best quality of sugar produced in Venezuela is manufactured in Guatire (Miranda State). This sugar is made in the same shape as that of other parts of the country, and commands better prices.

Brown sugar.—The plantation with the largest output of brown sugar is located near the city of Caracas, and its production has been from 250,000 to 300,000 pieces a year, or 396,000 to 476,000 kilograms. There is another plantation that produces about the same quantity situated in the Libertador department. It is contiguous to the latter, and the difference in the amount of production is due to the soil and cultivation. This kind of sugar has the largest consumption in Venezuela. It is offered to the market in different shapes. In the Federal District, States of Miranda and Aragua, it is molded into cylindrical cubes weighing about 1 kilogram 60 grams; in the State of Carabobo, in the same shape, though with a weight of 680 grams, or 1½ pounds; while in the States of Mérida, Trujillo, Táchira, Zulia, Falcón, and Lara brown sugar is made into squares weighing 1 kilogram 60 grams each, or 3½ pounds.

Plantation work.—This work is seldom undertaken directly by the owners of the land. As a general rule lots of land are distributed among *medianeros*, who have to sow the land and provide for all the labor of the cultivation until the sugar cane is ready to be sent to the elaborating departments, when they cut it and store it in the special building where it is manufactured without cost to them. Half of the product belongs to the owner of the land. *Medianeros* can in the meantime sow beans, corn, and cereals, which products belong to them, but it is understood that they are obliged to sow sugar cane in the land they obtain, and see that the *tablones* are constantly under cultivation.

COTTON.

Cotton, although a natural product of Venezuela, was not cultivated until 1782.

Cultivation.—The cultivation of this product assumed important proportions during the civil war of the United States, but after that event and the subsequent great decline in the prices of this staple, the industry gradually decayed. The stalk grows to the proportions of a large bush. Annual planting, as in the United States, is unnecessary, and with the usual cultivation the yield in Venezuela is much greater.

Production.—At the beginning of 1800 the average production was about 450,000 kilograms annually. In 1850 the exports of cotton were 300,000 kilograms, and in 1888 57,500 kilograms.

TOBACCO.

Tobacco zone.—Tobacco, discovered by the Spaniards in Yucatán, was thence disseminated through the West Indies and soon introduced into Venezuela, where it is most successfully cultivated in Capadare, Yaritagua, Mérida, Cumanacoa, Guanape, Guaribe, and Barinas. A good quality comes from the locality of Capadare, in the State of Falcón, and is similar to that from the Vuelta Abajo plantations in Cuba. Excellent tobacco is also grown near Cumaná, that from Guácharo being considered exceptionally good. In Maturín, Upata and Barinas, in the neighborhood of the Federal District, and in Quebrada Seca, in the State of Aragua, in Guacara, and near the city of Valencia, in the State of Carabobo, a great quantity of excellent tobacco is also grown.

Cultivation.—The plant thrives best on humid, moderate, and fertile soil, since if it be too light and sandy the tobacco yields poorly and fires quickly, while if the soil is too rich the yield, though large, will be of tobacco filled with acrid matter and therefore very susceptible to injury by fermentation.

The cultivation of tobacco requires about six months in Venezuela to have it ready for the market, and while the cost is very insignificant, great care is required.

Preparation.—The Indians near Mérida, Trujillo, and Barinas boil tobacco to the consistency of paste and use this preparation instead of chewing the leaf. There are many factories for preparing chewing tobacco, the most important of which are situated in Valencia, Guacara, and in Altagracia de Orituco.

Production.—Some tobacco is exported from Venezuela, chiefly to Havana, where, with that from Colombia, Santo Domingo, and other localities, it combines in the manufacture of real Havana cigars. Those made in Caracas and La Guaira of well-cured Capadare leaf are in no respect inferior to the Cuban products. An American tobacco trust has been formed to purchase all of the factories and deposits of tobacco in Venezuela. Its capital amounts to \$5,000,000, and profit on its transactions is already shown.

MAIZE OR INDIAN CORN.

Cultivation.—Maize, or Indian corn, is successfully grown in all of the States, and in every kind of soil from the level of the sea upward

to 2,800 meters, though it thrives best between 500 and 1,000 meters. There are about 20,000 hectares of land (about 50,000 acres) devoted to the cultivation of corn, and the total amount produced is estimated at 120,000,000 kilograms.

Preparation.—Maize is, to a very large extent, the true bread plant of Venezuela, especially in the interior of the country. It is scarcely, if at all, used for making corn meal; but the grains, after having been soaked in water and pounded in a wooden mortar (called *pilón*) or by mechanical process to remove the hull, are mashed into a dough and made into arepas,^a of a biscuit shape, which are eaten warm. These, though very white, are rather heavy. Most of the corn produced in Venezuela is cultivated in the rainy season and sown during that time on the mountains as well as in the plains.

For provender successive crops are thickly sown and fed as green fodder (*malojo*) to horses, mules, asses, and horned cattle.

Production.—The production is sufficient for the wants of the country, but could be increased to cause it to become one of the principal staple export products of Venezuela.

BEANS.

Cultivation.—Beans are successfully grown in all the States, and a great variety of them is produced.

Consumption.—Those having the greatest consumption are the black beans, the production of which meets the domestic demand.

Production.—They grow at any time of the year and constitute one of the principal articles of domestic commerce in Venezuela.

INDIA RUBBER.^b

Technical name.—The technical name of the india-rubber tree is, according to Linnæus, *jatropha elastica*; Person calls it *siphonia elastica*; Sereber, *siphonia cahucha*; Aublet, *hebea guianensis*, and Codazzi, *goma elastica*.

Common name.—Rubber is called in Venezuela *caucho* or *goma*; in Brazil, *seringa* or *borracha*; in Bolivia and Peru, *goma* or *jefe*; in Colombia, *caucho* or *jefe*, and in Mexico and Central America, *hule* or *caucho*.

Discovery of rubber.—Rubber was discovered in French Guiana in 1751, but it was first described by the members of the French commission which went to Peru in 1735.

Varieties of hevea.—According to Buscalioni, Ackerman, and Brown, who have made a special study of the cultivation of the rubber tree, the varieties of the *hevea* are produced in the Amazon region and that of its affluents, the varieties being *brasilensis*, *pauciflora discolor*, *lutea*,

^a Arepa means corn in the Cumanagoto dialect.

^b "El Caucho en Venezuela, 1903—Tavera-Acosta."



TRUNK OF RUBBER TREE (*HEVEA BRASILENSIS*).
Method of extracting sap. (Courtesy of Mr. A. Stockman.)

etc., which are the same that are found in the upper Orinoco, Río Negro, Cassiquiare, and Siapa, in Venezuela.

Venezuelan varieties.—The rubber which is produced in the Orinoco, Casiquiare, and Río Negro sections of Venezuela comes from forests of *heveas* which belong to the family of the *euporbiaceas*. There are also other gutiferous trees of the same family, such as the *ficus elastica pendare*, *masaranduba*, *paíro*, and *marima*, etc. The first and last mentioned produce more sap than the *heveas*, but it is less elastic and thicker.

Zone of production.—Besides the rubber forests above mentioned, which cover an area of more than 80,000,000 hectares, for the exploitation of which many million people would be required, the rubber tree is a natural product throughout Venezuelan Guiana and the Andes range, and is to be found in plentiful quantities in some States of the east, west, and south of Venezuela. The Government has strictly forbidden that the rubber trees be cut down.

Growth of trees.—The *heveas* of Brazil, Bolivia, and Peru are exactly the same as those of Venezuela (*siphonia elastica*), and grow between the fifth degree of latitude north and twelfth degree of latitude south, either singly or in groups. They attain a height of from 15 to 30 meters and a thickness of 1 to 2 meters and even more. The best soil is that which is irrigated by periodical floods of the rivers. The trunk of the tree grows straight and high; the leaves are always trifoliate and in the form of lancets of different size, and its flowers are small and grow in bunches. The growth of a tree is not rapid and is only productive after six years.

Cultivation.—The rubber tree must be planted at a distance of from 4 to 5 meters from each other and must be shaded. When a plantation is sown in a place covered by trees some of the larger ones are left to serve as shade. A hole must be dug in the ground to a depth of 40 centimeters and a radius of 1 square meter, in the center of which one of the small trees is planted, for which purpose seeds have been previously raised in a nursery from which they are transplanted. Before the tree begins to produce it is necessary to keep the soil free from grass and underbrush.

Extraction of the rubber.—There are several systems in use for the extraction of the juice of the rubber tree, consisting in making one or several incisions at different heights in the trunks of the trees, from which oozes the juice, which is collected in receptacles.

In Brazil, Bolivia, and Peru these receptacles are made of tin or pottery. The method employed in the rubber region of Venezuela is similar to the above.

The incisions on the trees may be repeated daily, but if the latter are not in a good state of cultivation it is advisable to discontinue making them after five years and let the trees rest for two years.

Smoking of the juice.—The process of fumigating the rubber is effected in order to evaporate the liquid part and obtain the coagulation of the juice. There are several systems employed, which consist in placing the juice in an oven heated by very carboniferous woods which produce a great quantity of smoke. It mixes with the coagulated matter, from which balls of 150 kilograms are made.

Some of this rubber is pressed so as to eliminate the small quantity of water it may still contain. The rubber thus treated has a yellow appearance and afterwards turns completely black.

Coagulation of the juice.—The coagulation of the juice, without the necessity of fumigation, is effected by using the following formula:

Solution A: Phenic acid, 4 grams; alcohol, sufficient quantity to dissolve it; water, 80 per cent.

Solution B: Sulphuric acid, 2 grams; water, 20 per cent.

These two solutions are mixed and the juice treated by this mixture coagulates immediately. By this system, which is considered the best, 25 kilograms of juice coagulate within five minutes, treated by 50 grams of sulphuric acid and 100 of phenic acid, and the product thus obtained takes the form of the receptacle in which it is coagulated. The color of the rubber is absolutely white, and although not so compact as the smoked kind has the great advantage of being deprived of the characteristic bad smell of rubber. Due to the rapidity with which the rubber is coagulated and dried, which reduces it 50 to 63 per cent in forty-eight hours, the rubber workers have not adopted it.

Gathering of rubber.—In 1837 the rubber tree was known in the Venezuelan section of Río Negro, and for the last forty years rubber has been obtained in the regions of Orinoco, Cassiquiare, and Río Negro. In 1860 a French merchant settled first in Solano and other places of the Cassiquiare where the rubber forest is thickest.

In 1900 to 1901 rubber was gathered by 1,400 Indians and in 1901 to 1902 by 2,444.

The population of the Amazon territory is about 41,000. More than twenty tribes of Indians inhabit it, but only the baniba, baria, and maquiritare, and some of the macos, carros, piaroas, and puinabes gather rubber.

Production per tree.—In the Orinoco region the hevea tree produces 40 to 50 grams of juice; in Río Negro from 80 to 100, and in Cassiquiare from 125 to 150. In December and January 200 trees produce 12 to 14 kilograms of juice, which is equal to 6 to 7 kilograms of rubber. In April the juice contains more water and produces only 4 to 5 kilograms of rubber.

In the Cassiquiare and Río Negro region, in December and January, the yield of 200 hevea trees is 13 to 15 kilograms of juice, which is equal to $6\frac{1}{2}$ to $7\frac{1}{2}$ grams of rubber; the production is, therefore, from 60 to 70 grams of rubber per tree.

Rubber crops, 1901-2.—The crop of 1901 of the Amazon territory of Venezuela (gathered in three to four months) produced 135,000 kilograms of rubber, and that of 1902 (in two months), 101,287 kilograms. The rubber crop of the Yuruari territory for 1901 amounted to 1,840,000 kilograms. The aggregate rubber crop of Venezuela must have been much larger, because these products, as well as many others of the country which are gathered in the vast extension of territory bordering on Brazil, such as tonka beans, the palm fibers, used for brooms, and the Río Negro nuts, often called Brazilian nuts, considered indigenous to the latter country, are exported by way of the port of Pará, and reach American and European markets as if they were of Brazilian origin.

Castilloa rubber.—This tree is cultivated with good results in many places situated near Ocumare. It produces an average of 95 per cent of pure rubber, and each tree yields about 1 pound of juice. The wholesale price is from \$40 to \$50 per 46 kilograms.

WHEAT.

Cultivation.—This product (*Triticum vulgare*) was brought by the Spaniards at the beginning of the conquest and was cultivated in Aragua, Barquisimeto, Trujillo, Mérida, and the Táchira. Cultivation is at present restricted to Trujillo, Mérida, and the Táchira. The high table-lands and valleys in the mountainous regions of western Venezuela are best suited to the cultivation of wheat and fine crops of this grain are raised. It forms the chief breadstuff of all classes of the country.

Production.—With improved implements for wheat farming and greater facilities for transportation to the seaboard the production and consumption would not be limited to that part of the country, and as railways are being extended in the Trujillo and Mérida sections it will soon offer the necessary facilities for bringing the crops to the various markets on the coast which now get their supply of wheat from the United States.

TONKA BEANS.

Tonka beans zone.—Of aromatic plants, the one which is exported on a larger scale is the *sarrapia* or the Tonka bean, the kernel of which furnishes a delicious perfume, and which abounds in the vast forests of the Amazon territory and the Cedeño district in Guiana, forming one of the staple and most valuable productions of those regions, watered by the Orinoco or its tributaries.

Production.—The bush which yields this fruit is called *Dipteris odorata*, and begins its production at the third year. The seeds, which are long and black, when dry, have a peculiar and very odorous perfume and are used by some to flavor tobacco. Almost the entire crop of Venezuelan *sarrapia* is exported by way of Ciudad Bolívar to

Hamburg or to New York. The process generally employed in the gathering of the Tonka beans caused the destruction of the plants, and the Government has been obliged to take precautions for the protection of the *sarrapiales* existing on Government territory. Concessions have been granted in the district of Caura for the farming of the public lands to be used for this culture.

VANILLA.

Production.—Venezuela produces an uncultivated vanilla plant called "*Vainilla lutescens*," but the one commonly known to commerce is the aromatic "*Vainilla planifolia*." The cultivation of this product has not yet been fostered to any great extent.

Zone of Cultivation.—Venezuelan vanilla grows very readily in the rich black soil of the States of Falcón, Lara, Bolívar, Bermúdez, and Zamora, though the official statistics do not furnish any figures on the quantities exported nor on the country's production.

COPAIBA OIL.

The resinous extract of copaiba comes from the "*Copaifera officinalis*," known in Venezuelan Guiana by the name of "*Cambima*" or "*Cambimba*." It comes from the tree in form of an oil of very agreeable odor. This tree is found growing wild in the woods of the Orinoco, in the forests of eastern Venezuela, and in the basin of the lake of Maracaibo. The exports of copaiba oil during the years 1895-96 reached 17,716 kilograms, valued at 43,220 bolivars, of which more than a third was sent to the United States.

INDIGO.

This product was introduced in Venezuela in 1777, and was planted near La Victoria and later in many places. The best quality was produced in San Sebastián. Due to the high price attained by coffee many years ago the cultivation of indigo was abandoned, although in 1802 the exportation amounted to 1,876,510 pounds, worth \$2,250,000.

COCOANUTS.

The cocoanut (*Cocos nucifera*) is a natural product of Venezuela, and there are very extensive plantations in the Zulia, Carabobo, Bolívar, Barcelona, and Cumaná regions. Exports of this product are considerable, as it is shown in the respective chapter of commercial statistics.

FOREST PRODUCTS.

Forest zone.—The forest zone of Venezuela produces in great abundance natural plantations of zarrapia, rubber, copaiba, vanilla, chiquichique sarsaparilla, dividivi, precious, ornamental, dyeing, and tanning woods and barks, fiber plants, resins, and medicinal plants and shrubs in great variety and quantity.

Extension of zone.—This vast region extends from the Gulf of Maracaibo over the mountains of Yaracuy, San Felipe, Aroa, Tucacas, Turén, San Camilo, Guayana, and its territories, and from the virgin forests, which are on the slopes of the mountains of Trujillo and Barquisimeto, to the fertile woodlands of the State of Zamora. It covers more than one-half of the territory of Venezuela, the exact area being 797,640 square kilometers, of which 785,590 square kilometers are still virgin lands. From this region Venezuela can derive natural resources of unlimited wealth when sufficient hands are available, and it is one of the principal prospects of future natural growth of the country.

Division of zone.—The following table shows the division of the forest zone of Venezuela:

Divisions.	Square kilometers.	Divisions.	Square kilometers.
General forest zone	797,640	Public forest lands	226,102
General virgin lands	785,591	Private forest lands	123,386

Forestry exhibits in 1883.—Of the 600 species of woods to be found in the forest zone of Venezuela, 2,070 specimens were exhibited at the National Exposition held in Caracas in 1883, as follows:

Locality.	Specimens exhibited.	Locality.	Specimens exhibited.
Federal District	5	Lara State	258
Miranda State	578	Falcón State	285
Carabobo State	276	Los Andes State	115
Bermúdez State	201	Territories and colonies	69
Bolívar State	34		
Zamora State	249	Total	2,070

Forestry exhibits in 1893.—At the World's Columbian Exposition of 1893 Venezuela exhibited 145 kinds of woods and 20 of dyeing and tanning woods and barks as follows:

ORNAMENTAL WOODS.

Acaipo (*Tecoma spec.*). A tree of from 20 to 25 meters high, trunk 6 to 8 meters, girth 0.80 to 1.20 meters. Specific weight of dry wood 1.25. It is almost indestructible but difficult to work.

Acaite (*Copaifera officinalis*). Height of tree 10 to 15 meters, trunk 4 to 5, girth 0.60 to 0.75 meters. Wood of a yellowish red color; specific weight 0.75.

Acaitane (botanical name unknown). Barquisimeto.

Achivare (*Ficus dendrocidia*). The tree is also called "matapalo," i. e., "tree killer, on account of its growing on and around other trees which it slowly strangles to death in proportion as its aerial roots develop round the supporting stem. The wood is of little value.

Ace (*Lonchocarpus punctatus*). Height of tree 10 to 15 meters, trunk 4 to 5, girth 0.60 to 0.75; specific weight of wood 0.75. The wood is strong and tough, of a darkish color with some lighter veins; it keeps well under water.

Aguaacate (*Persea gratissima*). A fine-grained wood of reddish color; sometimes with some darker veins; not very hard; specific weight 0.65. The tree is cultivated for its fruit, and attains a height of 12 to 15 meters, trunk 4 to 5, circumference 0.75 to 1.20.

- Aguacatillo** (*Persea spec.*). The wood is used in boat building and for making furniture. Logs of 16 inches square are not uncommon.
- Ajaito** (*Capparis pachuca*). A small tree with a light-colored wood of not much hardness, used for cabinetwork.
- Albaricoque** (botanical name not known). A fine-grained wood, not very hard, used for cabinetwork.
- Alcoraque** (*Bowdichia virgilioides*). The tree is low and has generally a somewhat stunted appearance. Its wood is very hard and durable; the sapwood is whitish, the heartwood is almost black, showing grayish spots on the cross section. Specific weight 1.08. Very common in the llanos or plains of the interior.
- Algarrobo** (*Hymenaea courbaril*). A very hard and heavy wood (specific weight 0.95), of dark yellowish color with some greenish veins; it has straight fibers and is free of knots, so that it can be easily worked. It is especially used for crushing wheels and similar things in coffee estates. Height of tree 20 to 25 meters, of trunk 7 to 8, girth 0.75 to 1.20.
- Amargo** (botanical name not known). Barquisimeto.
- Anda-Ariba** (botanical name not known). Coro, Maracaibo.
- Angelino** (*Homalium racemosum*). The wood is of olive color, not very hard, has straight fibers and a specific weight of 0.85. Height of tree 20 to 25 meters, of trunk 6 to 8, circumference 0.90 to 1.20.
- Apamate** (*Tabebuia spec.*). A tolerably good wood for building, however not very durable. Height of tree 15 to 20 meters, of trunk 5 to 8, circumference 0.90 to 1.10.
- Araguaney** (*Tecoma spectabilis*). The heartwood is of great hardness, of a dark olive color, and has a specific weight of 1.25. Height of tree 20 to 25 meters, of trunk 6 to 8, circumference 0.75 to 1.20. The flowers are precocious; that is to say, appear before the leaves.
- Aspai** (*Myrodia turbinata*). A fine-grained and light-colored wood, easy to work and used by cabinetmakers. The tree grows in the eastern States (Camaná, Maturín, Guyana).
- Asaharito** (*Tabernaemontana sp.*). A strong and hard wood of a yellowish-red color, slightly veined with grayish green. The fibers are somewhat interwoven, so that it splits with great difficulty. Specific weight 0.92. Barquisimeto.
- Balaustre** (*Centrolobium robustum*). Wood red colored with dark veins; it is easily worked and takes a good polish. Much used for cabinetwork, also for house and ship building. Height of tree 25 m., of trunk 8 to 10, girth 3 to 4; specific weight of wood 0.75. The tree is also known by the name of *cartan*.
- Bejuco de Cadena** (*Schnella splendens*). Remarkable for its flattened stems, which when young are exceedingly flexible and used as thongs. The Spanish name signifies "chain vine," in allusion to this property.
- Berraco** (*Tabernaemontana psychotriifolia*). The wood is fibrous, not very hard, and of an olive color, sometimes with darker veins; specific weight 0.60; it is easily worked and takes a good polish. Height of tree 8 to 10 m., of trunk 3 to 4, girth 0.75 to 1.00.
- Birote** (botanical name not known, but probably a *bignoniacea*). Wood very hard and durable, and much used for underground work. Specific weight 0.95.
- Borracho** (*Piscidia Erythrina*). A light wood which, however, resists the attacks of insects on account of a poisonous substance contained in the sap. It is used for ordinary cabinetwork.
- Bosta** (*Zanthoxylum ochroxyllum*). Wood yellow and not very hard, with many pores and narrow medullary rays. The tree is of medium size and grows everywhere.
- Bujurito** (botanical name not known). Not very abundant, but of a good size and yielding useful timber.

- Cabimbo** (*Protium insigne*). A light and somewhat resinous wood, suitable for all kinds of work not exposed to dampness. The tree attains very large dimensions.
- Cachicamo** (botanical name not known). A large tree, which gives boards of from 12 to 24 inches broad. The wood is useful for shipbuilding, being almost indestructible under water.
- Cachimbo** (botanical name not known). A small tree, or large shrub, with a wood hard like bone, formerly used by the Indians for making their short tobacco pipes.
- Caimito** (*Chrysophyllum cainito*). The wood is of dark brown color and rather hard, but rarely used. Barcelona.
- Canalf** (botanical name unknown). Barquisimeto.
- Canalete** (*Aspidosperma excelsum*). The tree grows to a height of from 25 to 30 meters, with a trunk of 8 to 10 meters, and is sometimes 1 meter thick. The lower part of the trunk is generally surrounded by large buttresses. It is abundant in the forests of Maracaibo and Guiana. The wood is yellowish-gray, easy to work when fresh, but getting harder when it dries. The fibers run very straight, so that it splits easily. It is much used for making oars and paddles.
- Candelero** (*Oreopanax capitatum*). Wood whitish, rather soft and light. Barcelona.
- Canota** (botanical name not known). A tree that grows rather abundantly in the States of Coro and Barquisimeto, and furnishes good beams and rafters.
- Cañada** (botanical name not known). A very large tree. The wood is especially used in shipbuilding; it is yellowish with many darker veins, very strong and compact, and deserves to be better known, as it is certainly one of the finest cabinet woods. Maracaibo.
- Cañafistola macho** (*Cassia brasiliensis*). Wood somewhat reddish, of medium hardness and weight, but not much used. The tree is a glorious sight when covered by thousands of its golden yellow flowers.
- Cañaguate** (botanical name unknown). Barquisimeto.
- Caoba** (*Swietenia Mahagoni*). The well-known mahogany wood. The tree attains a height of from 20 to 25 meters, while its trunk measures sometimes 8 to 10 meters, with a girth of from 1.50 to 2.50. Specific weight of wood 0.82.
- Caobano** (*Brunella comocladifolia*). Wood somewhat similar to mahogany, though of inferior quality; it is principally used for boards and sheathing.
- Caobano blanco** (*Guarea Ruagea*). Wood yellowish white, rather light and of little hardness; used especially for boxes.
- Caracolf** (*Anacardium rhinocarpus*). A very large tree; the wood, however, is not very valuable, and used especially for making boats and canoes, also for boxes.
- Caritivano** (a species of *Rutaceæ*). The tree is rather abundant in the forests of Maracaibo, and attains large dimensions. The wood is fine grained, white as ivory, but getting a yellowish hue after long exposure to air.
- Carángano** (botanical name not known). Maracaibo.
- Cartón**. (See Balaustre.)
- Carne asada** (*Rhopala complanata*). Wood reddish, fibers somewhat wavy and rather thick; specific weight, 0.93. Used for cabinetwork, but not very easily worked.
- Catati** (botanical name not known). From the forests of Cumaná.
- Caudero** (botanical name not known). Maracaibo.
- Canjaro** (*Cordia alba*). A tolerably good wood for building purposes, which, however, does not stand well humidity. The tree attains a height of from 12 to 15 meters, its trunk 4 to 5, with a girth of from 0.75 to 1.
- Cedre amargo** (*Cedrela odorata*). The bitter cedar wood is perhaps the one which is more frequently used for ordinary cabinetwork than any other, owing to its being so very easily worked and proof against the attacks of all kinds of insects.
- Cedre dulce** (*Bursera altissima*). Wood somewhat resinous, light, and rather spongy; it is used for boards, sheathing, etc. The tree is of very large dimensions.

- Celbo** (several species of *Bombax* and *Eriodendron*). All are very large trees, growing very fast; the wood is soft and light, and used especially for making large dug-out canoes.
- Cenicero** (*Pera tomentosa*). Wood of a grayish-red color with darker veins, rather hard, of a fibrous texture, but fine grained; specific weight, 0.80. It is a very handsome cabinet wood. Height of tree, 10 to 12 meters; of trunk, 3 to 5; girth, 0.75 to 1.20.
- Chipororo** (botanical name unknown). Barquisimeto.
- Chiripa** (botanical name not known). From the forests of Cumaná.
- Clavellino** (*Cesalpinia clavellino*). From Barquisimeto.
- Clavito** (*Erythroxylon* spec.). Used especially for making walking sticks.
- Clemón** (*Thespesia populnea*). A small tree yielding a handsome wood which is easily worked and takes a good polish. Rather uncommon.
- Coco de mono** (several species of *Lecythis*). High trees with a reddish-yellow wood, which is rather hard and heavy and used as well for building purposes as for cabinetwork.
- Congrina** (botanical name not known). Abundant and very suitable for building purposes, especially underground. It gives square logs of 20 inches each side.
- Copaiba**. (See Aceite.)
- Copey** (*Clusia rosea*). Wood of a reddish color, rather heavy (specific weight, 0.80); but little used.
- Cruceta real** (*Thevetia nerifolia*). Wood soft, but rather durable. Barcelona.
- Cucharo**. (See Paraguanay.)
- Curarire** (appears to belong to the *bignoniaceæ*). Color gray, with dark veins; it splits easily and is rather hard and very durable. Maracaibo, Barquisimeto.
- Cuspa** (*Galipea cusparia*). Of whitish-yellow color, rather heavy and strong; specific weight, 0.90.
- Daguaro** (*Cesalpinia* spec.). Wood reddish, similar to Balaustre; excellent for building purposes and cabinetwork. The tree reaches a height of about 15 meters and grows especially in the forests of Maracaibo.
- Dividive** (*Cesalpinia coriaria*). A large tree, reaching sometimes a height of 30 meters, while its trunk measures about 10 meters, with a girth of from 1.50 to 2.50. It grows in the hot lowlands and yields a fruit used for tanning leather. The wood is very heavy (specific weight, 1.30), strong and fine grained; the sapwood is whitish yellow, the heartwood black and almost as hard as iron. It is used for wheels in mills and turnery ware.
- Durote** (*Bocoa provacensis*). A high tree with a very hard and fine-grained wood of a beautiful reddish color, which takes a splendid polish. It is one of the finest cabinet woods.
- Ebano** (*Cesalpinia ebano* and *C. punctata*). Wood black, with some veins of other colors, very strong and fine grained. Specific weight, 1.15. It is common in Maracaibo, although not much used. Height of tree, 20 to 25 meters; trunk, 8 to 10; girth, 1 to 2.
- Echahumo**. (See Araguaney.)
- Estoraque** (*Myrospermum* spec.). A large tree with an aromatic wood, which is very elastic and generally of dark-brown color. It is used for staves.
- Fior amarilla** (*T. chrysantha*). The wood is very much like Araguaney.
- Gatesado** (*Astronium graveolens*). The tree is also known by the names of *diomate* and *tibigaro*, especially in the western part of Venezuela. The wood is dark colored, very strong and hard, and takes a fine polish, so that it ranks among the best cabinet woods. Specific weight, 1.30.
- Granadillo** (*Brya ebenus*). Very hard; the sapwood is yellowish, the heartwood brownish. Specific weight, 1.32. Barcelona.

- Guáesimo** (*Guazuma ulmifolia*). Of a white-grayish color with a somewhat reddish hue and occasionally some dark veins; it is fibrous, not very fine grained, and comparatively light. Specific weight, 0.56. Not much used.
- Guaimaro** (botanical name not known). A large tree, growing abundantly in the forests of Maracaibo, where it is also known under the name of *charo*. The heartwood is of a reddish color with delicate veins of other shades; the sapwood is yellowish white with dark markings, both being of a fine-grained texture and taking a beautiful polish, so that they are very desirable for fine cabinetwork. The fruit contains an edible seed, said to be of good taste.
- Guarataro** (*Vitex spec.*). Wood yellowish white, fine grained, hard, and strong. The tree is of a good size, but not very common.
- Guatacare** (*Chytroma idatimon*). A good-sized tree, with a hard and rather heavy wood (specific weight, 0.90) which is very elastic, of a dark-brown color, but not very strong. It is suitable for ordinary cabinetwork; however, does not stand humidity well.
- Guayacán** (*Guayacum officinal*). Wood exceedingly hard and tough, the fibers crossing each other, so that it does not split. The sapwood is of a yellowish color; the heartwood is brown with dark greenish veins and markings. Specific weight when perfectly dry, 1.12 (in the fresh state, 1.30 to 1.36). It is used for turnery work, cart axles, teeth of indented wheels, etc.
- Guayabito** (*Eugenia punicifolia*). A fine-grained and very strong wood of a coffee-with-milk color, and some paler veins. Specific weight, 0.90.
- Guayabo de Montaña** (*Eugenia moritziana*). A good-sized tree, growing frequently in mountain forests. The wood is hard and heavy and of a yellowish color, highly elastic and very durable. It is especially used for rafters on account of its great traverse resistance.
- Huesito** (*Prockia crucis*). Wood whitish, not very hard, but close grained and pretty strong. Caracas, Carabobo, Barquisimeto.
- Lagunero** (*Pterocarpus draco*). A middle-sized tree which yields a somewhat reddish wood suitable for every kind of cabinetwork.
- Laurel** (*Nectandra laurel*). Laurel blanco (*Oreodaphne leucoxylon*). Laurel capuchino (*Aydeendron laurel*). Laurel negro (*Nectandra turbacensis*). The wood of all these trees is strong, though not very heavy (specific weight, 0.65 to 0.75), fine grained, and more or less aromatic. The color is variable. It is very durable and easily worked, and much used for cabinetwork, also for boats and larger river vessels.
- Lechero** (*Euphorbia caracasana* and *Sapium aucuparium*). Wood whitish, soft, and light; it is little used, though it gives boards and sheathing which are not attacked by insects.
- Limoncillo** (*Bravaisia floribunda*). Wood yellow and very fine grained; specific weight, 0.65. Used for light cabinetwork.
- Mahomo** (*Lonchocarpus sp.*). Very hard and elastic; it is much used for making jaunts of wheels. The white variety is said to be better than the dark one, which is less durable and resistant. Barcelona.
- Mamá** (*Melicocca bijuga*). Wood hard and heavy (specific weight, 0.90), compact and close grained, color yellowish with very narrow somewhat darker veins. It being a fruit tree, the wood is seldom made use of.
- Mamón chusco** (botanical name not known). Maracaibo.
- Mangle Colorado** (*Rhizophora mangle*). Wood red, strong, and heavy (specific weight, 1.10). Much used for rafters, large quantities being shipped from Maracaibo to other parts of the coast.
- Mantees** (botanical name not known). Rather uncommon; the wood is suitable for building purposes and cabinetwork.

- Mansanilla de Montaña** (*Rhus juglandifolium*). Wood yellowish red and tolerably hard; specific weight, 0.75. Of little use.
- Mapurite** (*Zanthoxylon spec.*). A yellowish wood which, when fresh, has a smell like that of the skunk.
- Mara Blanca** (*Bursera karsteniana*). Wood resinous and light, of whitish color, and not very durable. Barcelona.
- Mara rosada** (*Bursera heterophylla*). Very much like the last species.
- Marfil** (see *Caritivano*).
- María** (*Calophyllum calaba*). A close-grained, yellowish wood, susceptible of a good polish. Maracaibo.
- Mecoque** (botanical name unknown). Maracaibo.
- Montanayare** (botanical name not known). Uncommon; but suitable for building purposes; gives square logs of 15 to 18 inches broad.
- Mora** (*Dimorphandra excelsa*). One of the loftiest trees in the forests of Guayana; the wood is heavier than water, dark red, close grained, and rather hard. It is used in boat building.
- Mucurutí** (*Couroupita guianensis*). A close grained and hard wood of a handsome yellowish color; the tree grows to a very large size. Guiana, Maracaibo.
- Naburucone** (botanical name not known). Can only be got during the rainy season; logs of 24 inches square are not uncommon.
- Naranjillo** (see *Limoncillo*).
- Nispero** (*Achras sapota*). Wood very strong, hard, and heavy (specific weight, 1.05), of a reddish color and taking a beautiful polish. It is excellent for making staves, but little used, as the tree is much valued for its fruit.
- Naure** (botanical name unknown). Barcelona.
- Olive** (*Jacquinia armillaris*). A yellowish, fine-grained wood, only used for small cabinetwork, the tree never growing to considerable size.
- Palo de arco** (*Tecoma spec.*). A very strong and elastic wood from the upper Orinoco, of a dark red color; specific weight, 0.95.
- Palo de rosa** (*Physocalymna florida*). A very beautiful wood from the Territory Yuruary, suitable for the most elegant pieces of cabinetwork. The tree is of a very large size.
- Palo sano** (*Guayacum sanctum*). Exceedingly hard, especially when perfectly dry. Specific weight, 1.30. Barcelona.
- Pan de sucre** (botanical name not known). Rather uncommon; wood used for building purposes.
- Pan de trigo** (botanical name not known). Barcelona.
- Paragatán** (*Condaminea tinctoria*). A rose-colored wood, which, however, loses its color by exposure to air and light. It is not very hard and easily worked, takes also a fine polish. Height of tree, 20 to 25 meters; trunk, 8 to 12; girth, 1.50 to 3.
- Pardillo** (*Cordia gerascanthus*), **Pardillo blanco** (*C. alba*), **Pardillo de monte** (*C. gerascanthoides*), **Pardillo bobo** (*Cordia spec.*). The different species of *Cordia* yield handsome woods, which are easily worked and take a good polish, and are therefore much used by cabinetmakers.
- Parature, Parature de rebalso, Parature de tierra firme**. Three precious woods from the Territory Amazonas, the botanical origin of which is not known.
- Pérfano** (botanical name unknown). Barcelona.
- Pilón** (*Andira racemosa*). Common and suitable for building purposes and cabinetwork.
- Puy** (*Tecoma serratifolia*). Very hard and almost indestructible, specific weight 1.30. It is of a grayish color with almost black veins. It contains an acid substance, for it turns reddish yellow when touched by an alkaline body. It is highly esteemed for building purposes as well as for cabinetwork and turnery ware.
- Quiebrahacha** (*Cesalpinia punctata*). Wood very hard, but the tree does not grow to a large size. Barcelona.

Reble blanco (*Platymiscium polystachyum*). The wood is of an inferior quality and seldom used. Caracas, Barquisimeto, etc.

Reble Colorado (*Tecoma pentaphylla*). Very hard and heavy, of a dark red color. It is excellent for building purposes and also for cabinetwork. The tree is of large size.

Rosa de Montaña (*Brownea graudiceps*). Dark red, with black veins and markings, very hard and fine grained, specific weight, 1.05. The tree is of very large size.

Samán (*Pithecolobium saman*). A very large tree, which yields a wood of rather middling qualities.

Sasafrás (*Acrocidium chrysophyllum* and *Nectandra cymbarum*). Very large trees, with a scented wood of excellent properties for building purposes. From the second species very large dug-out boats are made for navigating the Orinoco and the other rivers of the interior.

Say (*Weinmannia balbisiana*). Wood reddish, hard, and very fine grained, but the tree is not common enough for its being used more frequently.

Sereipo (see *Estoraque*).

Suspiro (botanical name unknown). Coro, Barquisimeto.

Tacamahaca (*Protium heptaphyllum*). A resinous soft wood, which is sometimes used for boards.

Taguapire (botanical name unknown). Barcelona.

Taparo (*Crescentia cujele*). Wood yellowish white, close grained, and rather hard and strong. The tree is of medium size, and grows all over the country.

Teco (*Cratogeomys gynandra*). Very light and soft, generally of a whitish color, though some samples show reddish veins. Sawn into boards for boxes.

Tetamillo (botanical name not known). Said to be a large tree, which grows rather abundantly in the State of Carabobo. It is a good wood for building purposes.

Tree ferns. There are many species of tree ferns in the flora of Venezuela, and the ligneous part of their stems is occasionally used for inlaid work in fine cabinet-making.

Tribunal (botanical name not known). Barquisimeto.

Trompillo (*Latia hirtella*). A good-sized tree, which yields an excellent wood for ordinary cabinetwork.

Traemo (botanical name not known). Barquisimeto.

Urape (*Bauhinia multinervia*). A fine wood of redish color, which takes a handsome polish; the tree, however, grows seldom to a good size.

Vera (*Guayacum arboreum*). A large-sized tree yielding a wood similar to *Guayacán*.

Yaque negro (*Prosopis cumanaensis*). Very tough and elastic, but not of large size. Barcelona.

Zapatero (*Peltogyne floribunda*). Color yellowish to black, very strong and rather heavy (specific weight, 1.08). It is excellent for building purposes and cabinet-work.

DYEING AND TANNING WOODS AND BARKS.

Fustic (*Maclura tinctoria*). Yields a well-known yellow dye, and is exported from Ciudad Bolívar, Carúpano, Barcelona, Puerto Cabello, and Maracaibo. The Barcelona wood is considered the best; it sells in France at 15 to 16 francs per 100 kilograms, while the Maracaibo wood is about 4 francs cheaper. This latter port, however, makes the largest shipments, amounting to nearly 7,000,000 kilograms annually.

Brasil wood (*Hæmatoxylon brasiletto*). Exported principally from Maracaibo, but getting scarce.

Amarillo (*Aspidosperma vargasii*). A large tree belonging to the family of dogbanes. The bark yields a yellow dye and contains also some tannin.

Onotillo (*Vismia ferruginea*, of the St. John's wort family). The bark yields a reddish yellow, somewhat resinous substance which can be used like Gamboge.

Rasura de Cucharo. Shavings of the wood of *Condaminea tinctoria*, used for dyeing yellowish red.

Bonus bark (*Zanthoxylum ochroxyllum*). Contains berberidine, and is therefore used for dyeing yellow.

Onoto. The *arnatto* seeds (*Bixa orellana*) are covered with a deep red pulp, which hardens when dry, and being separated from the seeds forms the *arnatto* of commerce, used by dyers and varnish makers, also for coloring cheese and butter. The South-American Indians paint their bodies with it.

Indigo, though one of the staple productions of Venezuela before the cultivation of coffee became generalized, is now of very little importance, only a few thousand pounds being exported annually from Puerto Cabello. The indigo plants (*Indigofera anil* and *I. tinctoria*) are growing as weeds almost everywhere; it is nevertheless not probable that the manufacture of this commodity will come again to the front.

Red Mangrove bark (*Rhizophora Mangle*, or *Mangle colorado*). It contains from 22 to 33 per cent of tannin, according to the age of the tree, but likewise a red pigment which colors the leather. Price at La Guaira, \$16 to \$24 a ton.

Dividivi. The pods of *Cesalpinia coriaria* contain from 30 to 40 per cent of tannin, and form an important article of exportation from several ports of the Republic (about 5,000,000 kilograms annually), especially from Maracaibo. Nearly one-half of the exportation goes to France, where 100 kilograms fetch, more or less, 25 francs, the cost price in Venezuela being about half as much.

Gatado (*Astronium graveolens*, fam. Therebinthaceæ). The bark contains from 25 to 30 per cent of tannin.

Curtidor (*Weinmannia glabra*). A tree belonging to the Saxifrage family, which grows rather abundantly on all the higher mountains of the country; its bark contains about 16 per cent of tannin.

Curtidor de Sabana (*Byrsonima spicata*, fam. of Malpighiaceæ). The bark yields from 20 to 25 per cent of tannin; however, is very rarely used.

Say bark (*Weinmannia balbisiana*). The bark of a small saxifragaceous tree, growing on the higher mountains. It contains much tannin, and is occasionally used for tanning leather.

Sertijero (*Calypthrantes clusiezifolia*). A myrtaceous tree of rather small size, growing in the western part of the Republic (Táchira, Mérida, Trujillo); its bark is rich in tannin.

Urape (*Bauhinia multinervia*, a *caesalpinjiaceous* tree). The bark yields a considerable quantity of tannin.

Yagrumo (*Cecropia pellata*, an urticaceous tree with large fan-shaped leaves and a hollow stem). The bark may be used for tanning.

Aguaosote (*Persea gratissima*). The bark of this fruit tree might be used for tanning leather.

Gují (*Acacia macracantha* and other species). It is well known that the bark and fruits of many acacias are rich in tannin.

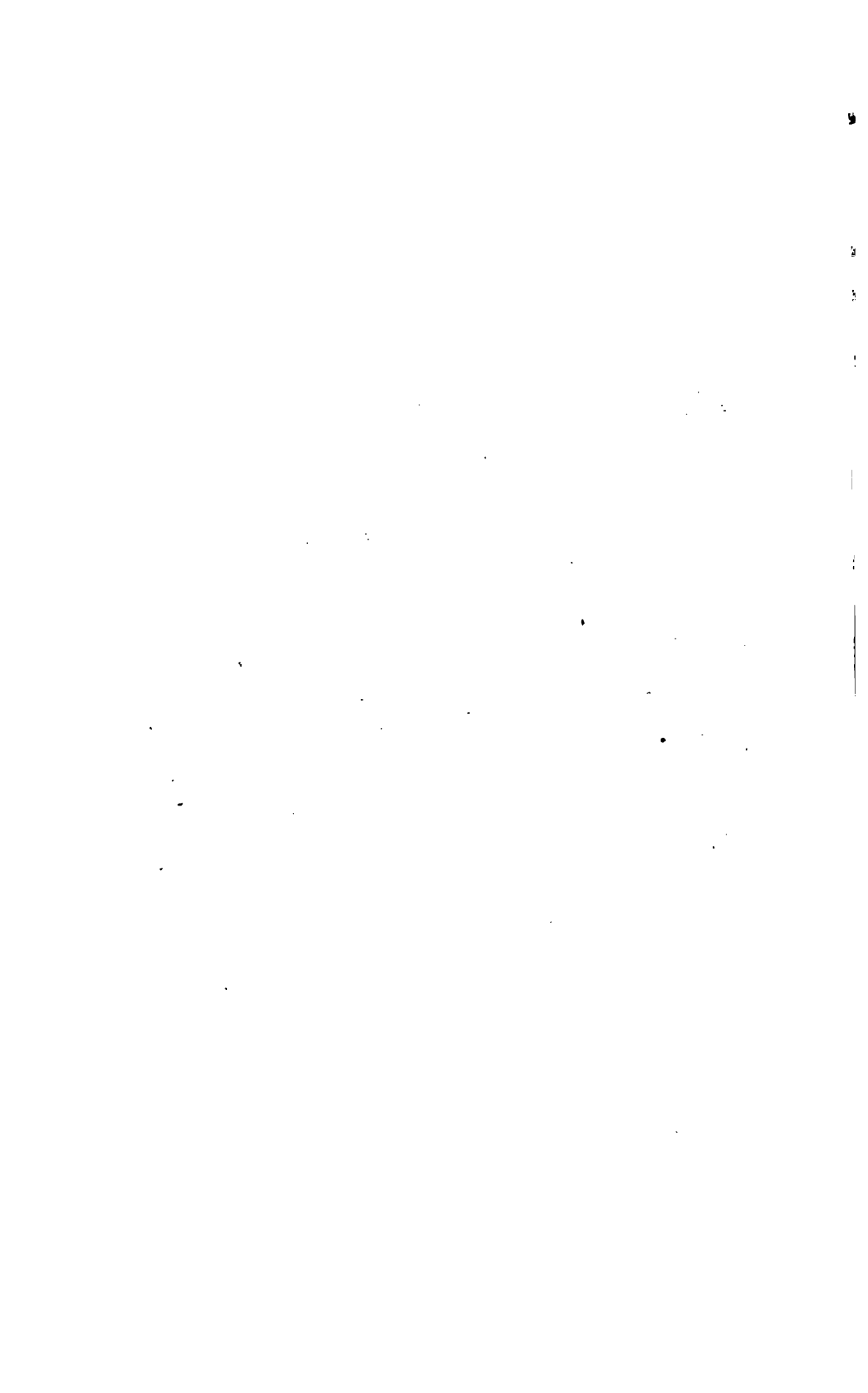
Guayabo (*Psidium guava*). The bark of this well-known myrtaceous fruit tree is very astringent and rich in tannin.

GUMS AND RESINS.

Algarrobo resin (*Hymenaea courbaril*). The resin exudes from the stem and roots of the tree and is often found in a semi fossil state in the soil. It may be used for making varnish, like copal.



BREAD FRUIT TREE.
(Courtesy of Mr. A. Stockman.)



- Yabo resin** (*Cercidium viride*). The resin exudes from the bark of the stem and branches, covering it in a continuous layer, as may be seen from the pieces of branches exhibited. It is used by soap manufacturers. The wood of the tree yields an ash containing a high percentage of potash, so that the same tree furnishes the necessary material for making an ordinary soap of good detergent properties. In some parts the tree is called *Quica*.
- Corobore resin** (also called *Algarrobo*, *Hymenæa courbaril*). May be used for making varnish, like copal.
- Peramán**. A black resin obtained from *Moronobea coccinea*, a rubiaceous tree growing in the Territories of Upper Orinoco and Amazonas; it is principally used for the calking of river boats.
- Tacamahaca**. A resin exuding in considerable quantities from the wood of *Protium heptaphyllum*, a fast-growing tree belonging to the family of Burseraceæ. It is used in medicine as an exciting toxic remedy.
- Caraña**. A resin very much like *tacamahaca*, and obtained from *Protium caranna*. Same use as *tacamahaca*.
- Guamacho gum** (*Peireskia guamacho*). A leaf-bearing species of the cactus family; the gum is exuded by the woody stem and yields a refreshing mucilage.
- Santal bark**. Under the name of *sándalo*, a firm of Puerto Cabello has exported the wood and bark of what appears to be a rutaceous tree, which, however, is not botanically well known.
- Rubber**. Some objects of rubber made by the Indians of the Orinoco. Large quantities are extracted in Guiana and the Territories of Upper Orinoco and Amazonas, and shipped either *via* Ciudad Bolívar, or sent down the Rio Negro to Pará, in Brazil.
- Peajua** (*Gaultheria lindeniana*). A small shrub, with highly aromatic leaves, which grows abundantly in the mountains of Cumaná.
- Tonka beans** (*Dipteryx odorata*). A large tree which grows generally gregariously in certain parts of the forests of Guiana; it is also common in Brazil; however, the tonka beans from Pará are considered inferior to those from Ciudad Bolívar. In 1890 the exportation from this latter port was 79,810 kilograms, valued at 442,721 bolívares (about \$85,000). The amount of beans collected varies much in different years on account of the weather.

MEDICINAL PLANTS AND THEIR CHEMICAL PRODUCTS.

- Angelón** (*Angelonia salicariæfolia*). A powerful sudorific. The plant grows abundantly in moist places nearly everywhere.
- Bejuco moreno** (*Serjania diversifolia*). Antisyphilitic.
- Palo amargo** (botanical origin not known). The bark is said to be a good tonic and febrifuge.
- Guaco**. Stems and leaves of a climbing plant (*Mikania gonoclada*), which have the reputation of being an excellent blood purifier and a remedy against snake poison.
- Guachamacón** (*Malouetia nitida*, fam. of *Apocynaceæ*). The milky sap of the wood contains a poisonous substance of highly narcotic properties. The plant grows abundantly on the banks of Middle Orinoco and Apure.
- Palo matías** (*Croton malambo*). The bark is aromatic and used as a stimulant.
- Pica malva**. A plant of the composite family, and belonging probably to the genus *Calea*. All its parts are of an intensely bitter taste; the leaves macerated in water, rum, or wine are recommended as an excellent stomachic, and it is said that they give good results also in the treatment of scrofula and paludic fever.
- Santa María** (*Aristolochia spec.*). Used as a tonic.

- Arrayan root.** The very astringent root of a myrtaceous plant, a decoction of which is recommended in the treatment of dysentery.
- Rais de Mato** (*Aristolochia barbata*). An excellent tonic which deserves the attention of physicians.
- Polypoda.** The rhizome of *Polypodium auratum*, used in medicine as a blood purifier and antivenereal remedy.
- Sarsaparilla.** Caracas sarsaparilla comes from a species of *Smilax*, which, botanically, is not yet perfectly known, as plants with male flowers hitherto have not been found. It is not exported, but only used by the druggists of the country, who pay the collectors \$16 to \$24 for the quintal of dry root. The import of foreign sarsaparilla is prohibited by the customs laws.
- Saloméa bark** (*Hedyosmum bourgoini*). A small tree belonging to the family of Chloranthaceae, growing in the higher parts of the mountains of Mérida. It is aromatic, of a somewhat bitter and pungent taste, and used for making bitters.
- Cuspa bark.** This is the true Angostura bark of druggists, derived from *Gatipea* (*Cusparia*) *officinalis*. It is sometimes called "quina amarilla;" i. e., yellow quinquina, and used as an excellent tonic and febrifuge.
- Cinchona bark from Tucuyo** (*Cinchona tucujensis*). Though not containing much quinine, it is exported chiefly from Puerto Cabello.
- Cinchona bark, from Cinchona cordifolia, var. rotundifolia.** It is exported from La Guaira, while from Puerto Cabello and Maracaibo *C. tucujensis* is shipped. The fever barks of Venezuela are poor in alkaloids and can not be used advantageously for their extraction, but they are mostly employed for making dentifrice. A considerable quantity goes to New York.
- Copaiba** (*Copaifera officinalis*). Exported principally from Ciudad Bolívar and Maracaibo, the latter being considered of superior quality.
- Caricarito** (from a burseraceous tree, probably a species of *Hedwigia*). Used for making unguents. Coro.
- Tacamahaca** (*Protium heptaphyllum*).
- Caraña** (*Protium carana*). Known in medicine as a species of elemi, and used for making unguents.
- Aloes** (*Aloe barbadensis*). Coro. Used very much in medicine. The plant grows very abundantly in the States of Falcon and Barquisimeto, being known under the name of *Zábila*.

FIBER PLANTS.

Venezuela produces a great variety of fiber plants, such as the cocuiza, cucui, gamelote, jipijapa, flax, majagua, ramie, sibeira, and many others, as follows:

FIBERS.

- Pita-hemp**, called *cocuiza* in Venezuela, is prepared from the long and thick leaves of several species of *Fourcraea* (*F. gigantea*, *F. cubensis*, *F. vivipara*). These plants grow in dry and waste places, without any care and help of man. The fibers are sometimes over 4 feet in length; they are thickest in the middle (0.15 to 0.40 millimeters). Under ordinary circumstances they contain about 12 per cent of water, and 36 per cent when fully saturated. Their ash amounts to 2 per cent of the weight burnt; it is white, and contains many crystals of oxalate of lime. The fiber is light, so that cordage made of it swims on the water. Unfortunately its flexibility is not very great, and still less so is the resistance against torsion. Much *cocuiza* is prepared in the Barquisimeto, Coro, and the Andes, where it is called *figue*. It is used especially for making bagging, hammocks, halters, cordage, etc.
- Majagua**, the fibrous inner bark of *Paritium tiliaceum*, of which a kind of ordinary cordage is made.

Maricbe-fiber, from the leaves of a palm, *Mauritia flexuosa*, which grows abundantly in the Delta of the Orinoco and similar places. They are used for making reins and cordage.

Palm leaves (mostly from several species of *Carlodivia*), used for plaiting hats.

Cotton, from Barcelona. Cotton is little cultivated, and only for domestic use.

Yellow cotton, island of Margarita.

Wool of the spiny silk-cotton tree (*Eriodendron anfractuosum*). Used like the other kinds of silk cotton.

Fruits and silk of the silk-cotton tree (*Ochroma lagopus*). The silk is only for the stuffing of pillows, as it does not allow of being spun.

Sibucara wool (*Bombax*). Used like the other kinds of vegetable wool.

Lana del Tabor, the silky wool which envelops the seeds of *Bombax cumanense*. It can not be spun, but is used for making pillows.

Lana de Enca. The exceedingly soft wool which wholly envelops the flowers of a species of flag tail (*Typha angustifolia*, var. *dominicensis*); it is used for the stuffing of pillows. The rhizoma of the plant contains a considerable quantity of starch.

Frailajón (different species of *Epeletia*, growing on the *páramos* in the highest parts of the Cordillera of Mérida, 3,500 to 4,500 meters over sea level). The leaves of these curious plants are densely covered by very soft wool, which, being a bad conductor of heat, protects the plant against the excessive cold to which it is exposed.

Silk-cotton. The beautiful glossy seed-hairs of *Calotropis gigantea*, an East Indian asclepiad, and perfectly naturalized in Venezuela. It has been tried to use them for a kind of woven fabric; they are, however, too brittle and do not give a good thread.

Silk-wool of Orosus (*Ibatia muricata*). An asclepiadaceous climber, which yields a milky juice, said to be a good pectoral. The seed hairs are too brittle and can not be spun.

Vegetable horsehair (*Tillandsia usneoides*). A well-known stuffing material, common to all tropical and subtropical climates.

Estropajo. The inner part of the fruit of *Luffa cylindrica*. When bleached, they are known as vegetable sponge, and used for washing.

Chiquichique. This is the piassava fiber, obtained from a palm tree (*Attalea funifera*).

Brooms are made of it, and also cables and other cordage, which are much used on board the vessels navigating the Orinoco.

Besides the cork tree, the araguaney, the suspa, the llagüero, the puy, the masagüaro, the yopo, which are employed exclusively in house-building, there are: the mora, the zasafras, the laurel, the parature, the caro, and the cartán, which, on account of their peculiar conditions, are used in naval constructions.

VEGETABLE PRODUCTS.

With the sap from the different kinds of palm trees to be found principally in the State of Bermúdez and in the Guiana section of Venezuela the native Indians manufacture wine, vinegar, oil, soap, starch, etc., and use their leaves either in the original state or specially prepared to make hats, cloths, hammocks, baskets, mats, etc.:

STARCH.

Maize-starch (*Zea Mays*). Prepared from the variety called *Maiz coriaco*, which yields about 60 per cent of starch.

Apio-starch (*Arracacha esculenta*). The plant which goes in Venezuela by the name of *Apio*, belongs to the family of umbelliferae, and looks very much like celery, which accounts for the name (*Apio* in Spanish means *celery*). It is a native of the South American Andes, and grows only in heights from 1,500 meters upward. It is a biennial plant; in the first year the large fleshy root only develops a number of radical leaves, while in the second year a tall stem grows up, bearing the flowers. As in this growth, however, the mealy substance of the root is used up, the latter is dug out before the stem appears. The fleshy root is of a yellow color, and, when boiled, very palatable. It contains from 20 to 22 per cent of starch, besides a sweetish juice, which yields good alcohol.

Chiga-starch (*Campeiandra comosa*). Upper Apure, Aranca, Meta, Orinoco. The starch is extracted from the seeds and used as breadstuff.

Lairón-starch. The tuberculous roots of *Calathea allouya*, looking very much like small potatoes, are eaten after having been boiled, and contain about 23 per cent of a most beautiful starch.

Mandioca-starch (*Manihot utilissima*, called *Yuca* in Venezuela). There are two varieties: *Yuca dulce* and *Yuca amarga*. The latter contains a very poisonous juice, which must be got rid of by pressure after the root is ground. It contains about 15 per cent of starch, which is sold at \$6 to \$7 the hundredweight.

Mandioca-starch. Of the State of Bermudez.

Mapuei-starch (*Dioscorea trifida*). There are two varieties: *Mapuei blanco* and *Mapuei morado*, according to the interior of the roots, which is white in the former, and of a murrey color in the latter. The boiled roots are much used instead of potatoes, and are, indeed, of a very good taste.

Ocumo-starch (*Colocasia esculenta*). The tubercles of the rhizom contain about 30 per cent of starch, and when boiled taste like some inferior kinds of potatoes.

Potato-starch. Potatoes grow well in most parts of Venezuela, farmers using generally German or French seed. They suffer, however, occasionally from blight, and the amount grown is by far not sufficient for consumption, so that every year a considerable quantity of potatoes is imported, especially from Germany and France.

Plantain-flour (*Musa paradisiaca*).

Yam-starch (*Dioscorea alata*). The roots contain 18 per cent of starch, together with a large amount of mucilage.

Sweet-potato starch (*Batata edulis*). The sweet potato is extensively cultivated; it contains from 15 to 20 per cent of starch, and 5 to 7 per cent of glucose.

Yuruma-starch (from *Mauritia flexuosa*). Of the Territory Delta del Orinoco.

VEGETABLE OILS.

Oil of piñón (*Yatropha Curcas*), exhib. Charles Boissellier, Carúpano.

Cocconut oil (*Cocos nucifera*). A well known oil obtained by pressure from the endosperm of the seed. Large quantities of it are made in Cumaná for soap manufactures.

Cocconut oil. Cumaná.

Cocconuts in the husk, and without it.

Ajenjolí (*Gingili*). The seeds of *Sesamum indicum*; they yield an oil similar to olive oil, and are also roasted and pounded in cold water for making a beverage which has the property of increasing the secretion of milk in nursing women. The plant is cultivated in some parts of Venezuela.

Oil of the same.

Castor-oil seeds (*Ricinus communis*). From these seeds the well known castor oil is extracted by pressure.

Sesua (*Feuillea scandens*, a curcubitaceous climber). The seeds contain a considerable quantity of colorless oil, said to be very excellent for protecting polished steel and iron implements from rusting.

Maní (earth peas, or ground nuts); the pods of *Arachis hypogæa*, which have the curious peculiarity to ripen under ground. The seeds are eaten after being slightly roasted; they also yield a sweet oil, largely used in Europe for adulterating olive oil.

Orab oil (*Carapa guianensis*). The seeds of this meliaceous tree, which is very abundant in Guayara, contain about 70 per cent of an excellent oil for soap manufacture.

Sajo oil, from the seeds of a palm (*Oenocarpus batava*), which grows in the Delta of the Orinoco and in the Territory Amazonas. It is said to be an infallible remedy against consumption.

Sajo oil. Cumaná.

Sassafrás oil. (*Acroclidium chrysophyllum*) from Barquisimeto.

Guajo (*Myristica punctata*). The bark is somewhat aromatic and used as an anti-rheumatic; the fruits contain a fat, of which candles are made.

ANIMAL PRODUCTS, SKINS, ETC.

Skin of jaguar (*Felis onza*).

Skin of cougar (*Felis macrura*).

Skin of fox (*Canis azaræ*).

Skin of weasel (*Galeotis macrura*).

Skin of squirrel (*Sciurus æstuans*).

Skin of aguti (*Dasyprocta aguti*).

Skin of opossum (*Didelphys cancrivora*).

Skin of sloth (*Bradypus torquatus*).

Skin of boa constrictor, 20 feet 3 inches long.

Cochineal (*Coccus cacti*). The dried bodies of the females of a homopterous insect, which lives on several species of prickly pear, principally *Opuntia coccinellifer* and *O. tuna*. It is used for making carmine.

Ground pearls, known in the country by the name of "huevos de bachaco," i. e., ants' eggs. They are, however, the larval capsules of *Porphyrophora margarodes*, an insect belonging to the coccidæ, order of homopteræ. The animal lives in sandy and marly soil, feeding on the roots of certain grasses.

ANIMAL OILS.

Turtle oil from the eggs of *Peltocephalus tracax* and *Podocnemis expansa*; both are abundant in the Orinoco River, and known in the country under the names of *terecai* and *arrau*.

WAX.

Beeswax. The yellow and white wax is the produce of *Apis ligurica*, introduced in the country since 1856, and now completely acclimatized. The black wax is made by a species of *Melipona*, which is indigenous. Prices, white wax, 80 cents; yellow wax, 70 cents; black wax, \$1 a pound. Foreign white wax pays 25 cents duty per kilogram, and yellow wax about 15 cents.

Black wax from the Territory "Delta del Orinoco."

HONEY.

The bee kept in Venezuela belongs to the variety known as *Apis ligurica*, and was introduced in 1856 from the Canary Islands. There are, besides, several wild species of bees that make honey.

FEATHERS.

Aigrettes.—The most costly of all feather ornaments are the aigrettes, which are in great demand. Some of the rarest and most beautiful

aigrettes come from Venezuela. They are taken from a large species of heron which does not feed in droves, but is found either singly or in pairs. They live in the thick jungles and swamps along the water courses of the Amazon and its tributaries and of those of the Orinoco, in which latter region they are more plentiful than elsewhere in South America. The gathering of these feathers represents both great difficulty and danger from reptile, beast, and insects. Therefore the wholesale price of crude feathers in New York is from \$25 to \$30 per ounce for short or "cross" feathers and from \$7.50 to \$10 per ounce for the long variety. The price is steadily rising, for they are never offered to the market in very large lots.

AGRARIAN INSTITUTE.

The Agrarian Institute has established an Agricultural Museum.

AGRICULTURAL MUSEUM.

In addition to being a permanent exposition, this museum is a center of practical instruction for the pupils of this first agricultural school, whose knowledge will result in a positive benefit to the nation, and foreign capital will find in the Republic an inducement for the development of those industries which receive from the soil their raw material.

List of some of the products that will form the "Agricultural Museum."

VEGETABLE SUBSTANCES.

Dyestuffs: Onoto, indigo, curcuma, Campeche wood, Brazilian wood, mora, etc.

Textiles: Cocuiza, cocuy and maya fibers, cotton and cotton manufactures (cloth, sacks, hammocks, sandals, etc.).

Oleaginous seeds: Spurge seed, beneseed, flaxseed, cotton seed, cocoanuts, peanuts, etc.

Farinaceous substances: Corn, wheat, oats, barley, rice, lentils, beans, etc.

Aromatics: Sarrapia, vanilla, coffee, cacao, ginger, tobacco, and its manufactures.

Tanning substances: Dividivi, mangrove, yagrumo, urape, etc.

Medicinal plants: Quinina, sarsaparilla, etc.

Wild fruits: Those used in the locality.

Caouchoucs, resins, gums: Copaiba, aloe, etc.

Woods, all the local varieties.

Forage plants: Wild and cultivated.

ANIMAL PRODUCTS.

Birds, and other animals, embalmed.

Insects: Useful and noxious to agriculture.

Eggs: Alligator, fowl, and tortoise.

Fish and fish products.

Honey, wool, wax, hides, feathers, bones, horns, teeth, etc.

Minerals: Rocks, fossils, marine and terrestrial shells.

INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS.

Starch and flour.

Baskets, wooden or earthen vessels, ancient or modern, used in the neighborhood.

Milk products, hard cheese.

Liquors: Rum, cocuy, aguardientes, etc.

Sugar, raw sugar, and raw-sugar products.

CENTRAL BOARDS OF AGRICULTURE.

These boards are established for the following purposes:

To encourage agriculture and stock raising in the State; and

1. To diffuse agricultural knowledge by means of publications that the Agrarian Institute will send for the formation of a circulating agricultural library.

2. To form an experimental station for the improvement of the existing crops and the introduction of new ones.

3. To establish an Agricultural Museum in the Office of the Board in the form of an exhibit of the products of the State.

4. To found a newspaper that shall circulate as the organ of the Board and diffuse agricultural progress, especially that relating to agricultural mechanics, constructions, fertilizers, rural industries, crossing of races, selection of seeds, diseases of plants, forestry, and questions of rural economy.

5. To encourage local stock and agricultural expositions.

6. To distribute seeds to agriculturists for experimenting with new productions.

7. To form nurseries of foreign arboreal plants for the distribution of slips to agriculturists at a low price.

8. To provide a small stock of machinery and agricultural instruments so that agriculturists may learn to operate them and to appreciate the advantages of their application.

9. To endeavor to obtain a small number of breeding animals for the betterment of the existing domestic animals.

10. To name similar boards in the districts.

11. To give its powerful and active cooperation to industrial, commercial, or nautical schools that may be created in the neighborhood, and to appoint traveling instructors in agriculture.

To facilitate the carrying into execution of these projects the Board relies from the outset upon the moral and material support of the Agrarian Institute, which, in addition to sending of books, pamphlets, and newspapers of an agricultural character, will also forward seeds and the necessary instructions regarding their cultivation. It will also answer in a disinterested manner the questions that may be submitted to it relating to the improvements, mechanical preparation of the soil, etc., as well as regarding the existing industries or those that it may be desired to establish, for which the institute has a competent personnel and extensive connections abroad with the manufactures of machinery, tools, chemical fertilizers, insecticides, etc.

PRINCIPAL PROVISIONS OF THE PUBLIC-LAND LAW.

Public lands are (1) the lay lands, or public lands, within the territory of Venezuela without lawful owner, namely, those not belonging to commons, corporations, or private persons; and (2) the lands recovered by the nation, according to the provisions of the present law.

Administration.—Public lands belonging to the States are administered by the Federal Executive, who can lease, sell, and grant them gratuitously for the following purposes:

- (1) For the establishment of agricultural or mining colonies.
- (2) For the reservations for the reduction and civilization of Indians.
- (3) For immigration, to which effect the Federal Executive may grant public lands to immigrants, according to the respective law.
- (4) For encouraging railway enterprises with grants of the necessary land adjacent to their lines, according to the provisions of the respective law.

(5) For improving the agricultural, pastoral, and mining industries, and protecting all other private enterprises devoted to such industries.

Land grants.—Public-land grants are governed by the following rules:

- (1) Mining lands are granted subject to the provisions of the respective code.
- (2) Public land granted to railway enterprises or others of public interest need but express the extension in the respective contract.
- (3) Public-land grants to immigrants must be in accordance with this law.

The Government has power to make gratuitous grants of lands under the conditions established in the public-land law.

Land granted near the shores of the sea or lakes or the banks of navigable rivers shall have an extension ten times greater toward the interior than on the shore or bank.

Public-land grants must be at least 5 kilometers distant in all directions from any salt deposit, or at least 500 meters from the seashore, or 200 from lake shores or banks of navigable rivers of the first or second rank, or 25 from those of lesser importance.

Lease of lands.—Public lands are leased for terms of five years, and the applicant must agree:

1. To cultivate, within three years from the date of his grant, at least one-third of the lands applied for, under the penalty of having his grant revoked for the portion which has not been cultivated.
2. To settle on the leased land and occupy it at least one year after, when it is for stock raising or pasture, under the same penalty.

Measurement of lots.—The measurements of lots shall be paid in cash by the lessee of public lands. The standard measure is the league, of 5 kilometers or 2,500 hectares.

Appraisalment of lots.—The appraisalment of lots is effected by experts, and the standard values adopted are as follows: Agricultural lands, from \$8 to \$16 per hectare; pastoral lands, from \$400 to \$800 per league.

Allotment of lands.—The maximum of a concession of public lands is 100 hectares for agricultural lands and 1 square league for stock raising.

PUBLIC-LAND LAW OF VENEZUELA.

[Full text.]

Land law sanctioned by the Congress of the United States of Venezuela in 1904.

The Congress of the United States of Venezuela decrees:

CHAPTER I.—*Public lands.*

ART. 1. The following are public lands:

(1) Lands situated within the limits of the nation and which have no lawful owner, that is to say, lands which do not belong to commons, corporations, or private individuals; and

(2) Lands which the nation may recover according to law and the special provisions contained in the present law.

ART. 2. The Federal Executive shall direct the taking of the census of public lands, and to this effect shall issue all the rules that are to be followed in its formation and shall designate the commissions which shall take it, bearing in mind the territorial division of the Republic.

ART. 3. The presidents and all the other civil authorities of the States are obliged to assist the Federal Executive with all the means in their power, and as it may demand, for the taking of the census of public lands, to comply with its directions, and to submit the information it may require.

ART. 4. Within six months after the promulgation of the present law the civil chiefs of the districts shall inform the presidents of their States, who, in turn, shall inform the Federal Executive in regard to the following points:

(1) Whether there are public lands within the limits of the district.

(2) In which direction and how far distant they are from the capital of the district.

(3) Whether their limits are or are not known, and, in the former case, what they are.

(4) Whether they are agricultural or pastoral lands, or suitable for these purposes, or only applicable to mining enterprises.

§ 1. Being agricultural lands, whether they are level or mountainous, irrigable or not, and which plants are produced, determining the different species of timber and products existing or which may be cultivated.

§ 2. Being pastoral lands, what are its pastures and what class of live stock may be raised on them.

(5) Whether they are under cultivation or employed in some public or private use.

§ 1. Being under cultivation, what kind of cultivation, and who are the owners.

(6) Whether the houses form villages or are built widely apart.

(7) Whether the lands comprise rivers, channels, or lagoons, the quantity of water they contain, and whether they are permanent and navigable by boats, or steamships; and

(8) Their temperature, fertility, geological conditions, hygienic and other special circumstances of the locality, and anything that may contribute to the knowledge of the application that may be given to them.

§ 1. In the census that shall be taken all these circumstances must be well determined by the persons in charge of taking it.

§ 2. The Federal Executive will enforce the execution of this provision.

ART. 5. The civil chiefs of the districts, for the greater accuracy of their information, shall demand all the data they may deem convenient from the registrars, municipal councils, boards of commons, and other authorities, and of the most intelligent people who live in the place. These data shall be given in writing and shall be added to the information which shall be sent to the presidents of the States.

ART. 6. When the civil chiefs of the districts should be in doubt regarding the nature of the land, that is to say, whether it is public or private land, they shall so express it in the respective record, stating likewise the justified motives for such doubt.

ART. 7. The presidents of the States shall remit to the fomento department a legalized copy of the information or records which the chiefs of the districts may have sent to them within thirty days after their receipt, and shall retain the originals on file; and they shall add to said copy the notes they may consider useful to elucidate doubtful points and make clear the opinion of the National Government.

ART. 8. After the information has been received in the fomento department, the National Government shall declare public those lands which prove to be such without the least doubt, according to this law; and for the investigation of those in regard to which there may be any doubt, it shall direct that through the respective commissioners the proper proceedings may be instituted before the competent tribunals.

ART. 9. The Federal Executive shall enact all the measures which it may consider necessary for ascertaining which are the lands called "realengas" (unappropriated), existing in the Republic which are not legally possessed, and shall proceed to recover them according to law. To this effect it is empowered to designate the persons who shall take the necessary steps under instructions from the minister of

fomento. This functionary shall, before directing the corresponding proceedings of recovery, endeavor to obtain a conciliation under the most equitable conditions.

ART. 10. The persons who denounce public lands that have been recovered for the nation by the Federal Executive, by virtue of judgment or conciliation, are entitled to have a title deed issued in their favor for one-fifth part of the land acquired.

ART. 11. Lands declared public by virtue of recovery in favor of the Federal Executive are incorporated to the dominion and ownership of the State in the jurisdiction of which they are located, and subject to the provisions of the present law.

CHAPTER II.—*Administration and application of public lands.*

ART. 12. The administration of public lands, the dominion and ownership of which belong to the States according to the constitutional provisions in force, corresponds to the Federal Executive; and the limits established or that may be established by the law of territorial division of the Republic shall determine which belong to each State.

ART. 13. Public lands may be leased, sold, or granted gratuitously, according to the provisions of this law.

ART. 14. The Federal Executive, as administrator of public lands, has power to apportion them within the bounds of reason and equity.

(1) For the establishment of agricultural or mining colonies as the development of the natural wealth of the territory may demand;

(2) For the protection that is to be granted for the reduction and civilization of aborigines;

(3) For immigration, to which effect the Federal Executive may grant public lands to immigrants in accordance with the respective law;

(4) For the promotion and construction of railways, granting the lands that may be necessary for their establishment and operation. These concessions shall not exceed 50 meters in width on either side of the line, and 1,000 meters in length for every 2,000 meters of railway line. An equal strip of land belonging to the Government having, therefore, to intervene alternately between one and the other concession;

(5) For the improvement of agricultural, pastoral, and mining industries, and for the protection of all private enterprises of acknowledged utility that may be established for the working of said industries, and with this end in view the Federal Executive may issue deeds of lease, sale, or gratuitous allotment in favor of the person or persons who may so apply, provided they submit to the provisions of this law.

ART. 15. In the allotment of public lands, which the Federal Executive may make in conformity with the foregoing article, the following rules shall be observed:

(1) Lands for the exploitation of mines shall be allotted according to the mining code;

(2) In concessions of public lands made to railway enterprises or others of national interest it will suffice that the respective contract shall state the extension of said lands; and

(3) The advantage granted to aborigines and immigrants shall be regulated by the Federal Executive in accordance with rules 2 and 3 of article 14 of the present law.

Sole §. In allotting or leasing land in favor of private persons according to rule 5 of article 14, all the provisions established by this law shall be observed.

CHAPTER III.—*Leasing of public lands.*

ART. 16. To obtain the lease of public lands the applicant shall apply to the president of the State in which they are located, proposing to lease them, and specifying clearly and precisely the place in which they are situated; the limits they comprise; the object to which they are to be applied, that is to say, whether for agricultural or stock raising; whether or not there are persons occupying them, and accepting the following essential conditions and unalterable agreements:

(1) To cultivate within the following three years, to be reckoned from the date of leasing, the third part at least of the lands for which he has made an application, subject to the penalty of having his concession revoked in regard to the part of the lands that are not cultivated in said proportion;

(2) To establish on the land leased and to occupy it one year afterwards, at the latest, from the date of the allotment, if the land be for stock raising or pasture, under the penalty of having his concession revoked; and

(3) To pay in cash the expense of measurement and that incurred in the formation of the record.

ART. 17. The secretaries of the presidents of the States shall put a note at the foot of the application signed by them and by the interested party, stating the day and hour on which the application was filed, and the president of the State within the third day shall decree the formation of the record; the measurement of the land, for the lease of which application has been made, by the surveyor chosen for that purpose; the publication, for three times, of the application filed, which publication shall be made in a newspaper of the State, and in case there is none, in one of a neighboring State; the posting of three bulletins in the most public places of the parish in the jurisdiction of which the lands applied for are located, and the announcement to the municipal council of the district where the lands are located, so that he may inform whether or not they belong to com-



mons of any village, and the notification to the persons occupying them, if there be any.

ART. 18. The surveyor appointed shall make oath to fulfill, in due form, his duties, and shall proceed to make the topographical plan which he shall sign, stating in it not only the situation, extension, and boundaries of the land measured, but also its conformation, temperature, altitude, class, whether or not it can be irrigated, its geological and sanitary conditions, and all the other circumstances that may be useful to judge exactly regarding its value and application.

Sole §. In measuring the land the Venezuelan league, according to the metric system, shall be used, adopting as equivalent of a league the extension of 5 square kilometers or 2,500 hectares.

ART. 19. The bulletins referred to in article 17 shall be sent to the civil chief officer of the respective parish for posting, one in his office and the two others in the most public places of the town, and he must return them twenty days later, stating the day on which they were posted, and that they remained for the aforesaid length of time in his office, in view of the public.

ART. 20. To the record must be added the report that must be submitted by the municipal council within the ten following days, a copy of the newspaper in which the application for lease has been published and the bulletin that must be returned by the civil chief officer of the parish as aforesaid.

ART. 21. If any opposition should occur in regard to the dominion and ownership of the lands that are bespoken for lease, the opponent must submit to the president of the State the title deed on which he bases his right, and if said functionary should find that the title lacks efficiency as a title of dominion, he shall so declare it and direct that the record shall follow the legal corresponding proceedings. In the contrary case the proceedings shall cease until the contention shall be decided before the tribunals of justice by executory sentence, of which the party interested shall submit a legalized copy in order that it may become efficient.

Sole §. When the opposition refers only to boundaries the delimitations shall be made according to the Code of Civil Procedure and the final resolution in regard to them shall have legal effect, for which purpose the party interested shall submit a copy of the sentence establishing said limits.

ART. 22. The classification of the land, that is to say, if it is for agriculture or stock raising, shall be effected by two experts appointed, one by the president of the State and the other by the party interested, and in case of disagreement the same experts shall appoint the third. Experts are under oath.

ART. 23. The *maximum* portion of a denouncement of public lands shall be 100 hectares of land for agriculture and a square league of

land for stock raising, but the Federal Executive, in view of the object to which the denounced lands are to be applied and of any other circumstances which may be favorable in his opinion to the application, may grant a larger extension than that established by this article.

ART. 24. The president of the State, in view of the respective record, shall inform regarding the convenience of leasing the land and shall send the original record to the minister of fomento who, in case there are not any objections, shall issue a resolution authorizing the president of the State to enter into a lease contract.

§ (1) The contract shall be made and signed in duplicate.

§ (2) If the applicant does not appear to conclude the contract within the thirty days following the notification that must be made by the president of the State regarding the authority received to that effect, it shall be null and void.

§ (3) The president of the State shall send to the minister of fomento the records relative to the commission entrusted to him, of which a copy of the contract shall form a part.

ART. 25. The amount of the lease shall be paid yearly in advance from the first of January of each year, although the lease bears another date, in the following manner: 4 bolivars for every hectare of agricultural land and 120 bolivars for every 25 square kilometers of stock-raising land. This payment shall be made in conformity with the respective ordinance.

Sole §. The lease shall be made for five years, at the expiration of which the lessee may renew the contract of lease or purchase the land. If, during the last quarter of the lease, he has not declared his intention to end the contract it shall be presumed that it shall continue for an equal term.

ART. 26. To the lease of public land are applicable the provisions contained in section 2, paragraph 3, of the Civil Code which are not opposed to the special provisions of this law.

ART. 27. The following shall have preference to obtain lease of public lands:

(1) Any person who, on the publication of this law, with or without legal title, has on them an agricultural or stock-raising establishment, or shall have incurred the expense of having them measured because of having denounced them previously as public lands, provided all the provisions of this law are complied with, and,

(2) The applicant who, not being a possessor, shall have denounced them and applied for them first.

CHAPTER IV.—*Sale of Public Lands.*

ART. 28. Besides the special and precise cases determined by the present law, the ownership of public lands can only be acquired by purchase from the Federal Executive, and it shall issue to the pur-

chasers the respective deeds of allotment through the fomento department in conformity with the formalities established in this law.

Sole §. The applicant shall prove first that he is lessee of the lands he proposes to purchase and that he has complied with all the conditions established in Chapter III of this law.

ART. 29. To acquire the ownership of public lands the applicant shall apply to the fomento department, proposing to buy them, annexing to his application the proof demanded by the foregoing article and accepting expressly the following conditions:

(1) That the nation is not responsible for indemnification (*saneamiento*) in case of eviction, nor obliged to put the buyer in possession according to determined boundaries, and

(2) That he undertakes to pay to the national treasury, according to the order of the department of fomento, the price of the sale.

ART. 30. The minister of fomento, when he receives the application, shall direct that it be added to the respective record of lease and shall allow the appraisalment of the lands proposed to be bought by experts commissioned to that effect by the presidents of the respective States.

ART. 31. Experts shall be appointed in conformity with the provisions of Chapter III and form the appraisalment which they have to make. They shall bear in mind whether the lands are for agricultural or stock-raising purposes; whether they are or are not irrigable; their situation, and all the other circumstances which may determine their real material price.

ART. 32. The *hectare* of agricultural land shall be valued from 40 to 80 *bolivars*,^a and the square league of stock-raising lands from 2 to 4 thousand *bolivars*.^a

ART. 33. When the appraisalment has been effected, the president of the State shall return the record to the minister of fomento, and, if no objections be raised, he shall decree the issue of the title deed after the respective payment has been effected according to the provisions of the above-mentioned article 29.

ART. 34. When the price of sale has been paid in the national treasury, according to the order issued to that effect by the minister of fomento, the latter shall issue the title deed in the following form:

“The formalities prescribed in the law in force on public lands having been observed, the National Government has decreed on (*such a date*), the allotment in favor of Mr. N—— N——, of (*so many hectares*), in case they are to be devoted to agriculture or mining enterprise, or (*so many square leagues*) of stock-raising land, situated in (*such a district*) of (*such a State*), within the following boundaries (*here the boundaries*). The allotment has been made for the price of (*in bolivars*) cash which the purchaser has paid to the national treasury, and the National Government having directed that the title deed

^a Five bolivars=to the United States dollar.

of the referred lands be issued to him, the undersigned minister of fomento declares, in the name of the United States of Venezuela that, by virtue of the sale effected, the dominion and ownership of said lands are hereby transferred in favor of the purchaser and his heirs or assigns, with the respective declarations expressed in art. 29 of this law, which, in its letter and contents authorizes the present allotment, and the terms of which are to be considered as expressly included in this contract and as decisive clauses in this particular—Caracas, etc.”

Sole §. The person interested shall register the title deed in the respective registry office in order that it may have all the legal effects.

CHAPTER V.—*Gratuitous allotment of public lands.*

ART. 35. The occupant of public lands who may have cultivated on them at least 2 hectares and built thereon a dwelling house has the right to the gratuitous concession of dominion and ownership of 5 hectares, and that the corresponding title deed be issued to him.

ART. 36. To obtain the benefit of the foregoing article the occupant shall apply to the president of the state of the jurisdiction in which the lands are situated and prove the circumstances referred to in the foregoing article. Said functionary shall substantiate the record according to the provisions of Chapter III of this law.

Sole §. The proof must be based in public document or on the testimony of at least three witnesses who may attest his statement, who must make their declaration before the judge of the first instance in civil matters of the respective jurisdiction.

ART. 37. No continuous concession of lands shall be made. Between one and the other an extension of at least *twenty hectares* must intervene.

ART. 38. The surveyor who shall measure the land in cases of gratuitous allotment shall be entitled to only *8 bolivars per hectare* for traveling and living expenses.

ART. 39. The record having been completed in conformity with Chapter III of this law the president of the state shall remit it to the minister of fomento who, if he should find it in proper form, shall commission said functionary to issue a title deed of gratuitous allotment.

ART. 40. To the effects of registration of the title the allotment is taxed at *400 bolivars*.^a

ART. 41. Lands, the ownership of which is acquired according to the provisions of this chapter, are free from all seizure, and therefore from embargo and public sale while they remain in possession of the person who acquires them. This condition shall be expressly established in the title deed of allotment.

^a Five bolivars = to the United States dollar.

CHAPTER VI.—*General provisions.*

ART. 42. In sales or allotments of public lands situated on the coast of the sea or lakes, and on the banks of rivers, navigable by boats, or steamships, each portion shall contain an extension at least ten times larger toward the interior or back than toward the coast or bank.

ART. 43. No concession shall be granted unless they are at least 5 kilometers distant from each point of the compass from the banks of the salt deposits, nor less than 500 meters from the seacoast, nor less than 200 meters from the banks of lakes or navigable rivers of the first and second order, nor less than 25 kilometers from navigable rivers of inferior order.

ART. 44. The ownership of public lands legally acquired up to the date of the publication of the present law is firm and hereby ratified, and can not be the object of claim on the part of the nation or the states.

ART. 45. Persons who have filed applications in the condemned public lands, whose applications are pending in the department of fomento when this law is published, have a term of six months to apply for the respective title deed.

ART. 46. Persons occupying lands over which an application for lease has been made shall have a term of ninety days, after being notified, to declare if they do or do not make use of the preference referred to in Art. 27 of this law. After the expiration of this term, if they should not have made any declaration nor filed their application for lease, the record shall follow the legal course.

ART. 47. When the amendment of the lease contract of public lands has been declared the former title deed is null and void.

ART. 48. The title deeds of lease shall be issued on sealed paper corresponding to the amount of the rent; the sale deeds on paper of the second class, obliterating 20 bolivars in stamps, and those of gratuitous allotment on paper of the last class, obliterating stamps as in the case of a sale.

ART. 49. All lease or sale of public lands in which the provisions of this law and of those that the Federal Executive may establish in the ordinance decree have not been complied with, may be declared lapsed, and the improvements and sums paid revert to the state.

ART. 50. All acts in which public lands are reclaimed shall be published in the Official Gazette, and shall be reported to the principal bureaus of registration of the jurisdiction in which state lands are situated, in order that they may make the corresponding record in the respective protocols.

ART. 51. The power vested by this law in the presidents of the states corresponds in the Federal District and Federal Territory to their respective governors.

ART. 52. The Federal Executive is authorized to issue the ordinance decree governing the present law.

ART. 53. The executive decree on the subject of July 20, 1900, is hereby repealed.

Given in the hall of the legislative palace of Caracas on April 16, 1904—93d year of Independence and 46 of the Federation.

The President of the Senate, (L. S.) *Santiago Briceño*. The President of the Chamber of Deputies, (L. S.) *José Ignacio Lares*. The Secretary of the Senate, R. Castillo Chapellín. The Secretary of the Chamber of Deputies, Vicente Pementel. Federal Palace, Caracas, April 18, 1904—93d year of Independence and 46th of the Federation. Be it executed. CIPRIANO CASTRO. Countersigned: The Minister of Fomento, (L. S.) *R. Garbiras Guzmán*.

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CHAPTER VI.

STOCK RAISING.

Favorable conditions.—Venezuela is second only to the Argentine Republic in possessing so vast an area of rich land for pastoral purposes. According to Codazzi this region looks like an immense gulf stretching far inland, or a sea of grass, which, as far as the eye can reach, is bounded by the horizon, the background of which is inclosed by the cordilleras and the forests of Guiana. This is the region where live stock is born, bred, and fattened entirely on the prairie without need of artificial shelter or the care of man; it is the great breeding place which furnishes the agricultural zone with all the cattle necessary for its labor and the meat requisite for the subsistence of its inhabitants.

Pastoral zone.—This great zone covers an area of 405,620 square kilometers, and extends from east to west from Barrancas, on the vertex of the delta of the Orinoco, to the wide plains of Sarare on the frontier of Colombia, and from south to north from the Vichada to the mountains of El Pao, in the State of Carabobo, and there is certainly no other region where the animals feed the entire year exclusively on a great variety of green grasses growing naturally on the fertile soil which does not need any tilling.

First live stock brought to Venezuela.—Live stock was introduced in Venezuela by the Spanish conquerors. It was brought from Andalucia.

Live stock in 1804.—Depons states that in 1804 there existed in Venezuela 1,200,000 head of horned cattle; 180,000 horses, and 90,000 mules.

Live stock in 1812.—According to the rates of increase of live stock there must have existed 4,500,000 head of live stock in 1812, in which year began the war of independence. At the end of this year the number of live stock was considerably reduced.

Live stock in 1823.—The following table gives the approximate number of horned cattle remaining in each section of the country according to the territorial division of the period:

In Apure	200,000
In Caracas	15,000
In Barinas	10,000
In Barcelona	10,000
In Carabobo	5,000
In Cumaná	4,000
In Guayana	4,000
In Maracaibo	3,000

In Mérida	2,000
In Barquisimeto	2,000
In Trujillo	1,000
Coro and Margarita	1,000
Total	256,000

Apure was the province in which live stock began to reproduce in greater quantities after the war of independence.

Live stock from 1829 to 1838.—The following table gives the number of live stock from 1829 to 1838:

Year.	Name of province.	Horned cattle.	Sheep and goats.	Muler.	Horses.	Asses.	Hogs.
1834.....	Caracas.....	222,554	51,430	8,291	18,628	18,378	34,000
1833.....	Carabobo.....	75,565	6,670	2,299	7,422	7,828	28,800
1832.....	Barquisimeto.....	13,187	175,907	2,584	3,319	14,026	19,000
1831.....	Barinas.....	172,604	10,606	3,751	17,442	7,061	45,000
1830.....	Apure.....	200,800	1,515	2,363	21,590	8,099	20,000
1829.....	Cumaná.....	37,157	3,694	972	2,938	2,081	9,000
1828.....	Barcelona.....	150,797	5,591	1,089	8,449	3,471	13,000
1827.....	Coro.....	4,110	200,500	800	1,296	7,105	5,000
1826.....	Margarita.....	309	15,770	59	353	364	900
1825.....	Mérida.....	5,729	21,171	1,000	587	1,660	2,000
1824.....	Trujillo.....	4,388	6,915	700	239	445	1,000
1823.....	Maracaibo.....	11,825	63,884	181	470	300	1,200
1822-38.....	Guayana.....	54,814	2,757	148	778	628	1,000
Total		953,859	576,410	24,187	85,501	66,436	179,100

Live stock in 1839.—The following table gives the complete stock statistics for 1839:

Name of province.	Horned cattle.	Sheep and goats.	Mules.	Horses.	Asses.	Hogs.
Caracas.....	445,108	72,770	11,906	16,279	28,331	56,000
Carabobo.....	141,482	14,878	3,508	7,204	14,776	38,000
Barquisimeto.....	29,651	527,721	5,168	6,688	28,042	21,000
Barinas.....	517,812	31,818	3,000	8,800	9,500	135,507
Apure.....	401,600	3,080	800	7,200	3,200	40,000
Cumaná.....	65,024	23,981	1,702	5,141	3,664	19,000
Barcelona.....	301,564	11,082	1,978	16,988	6,942	17,000
Coro.....	16,440	802,000	1,600	2,572	28,042	9,000
Margarita.....	541	27,578	104	618	637	2,000
Mérida.....	34,374	127,026	4,500	3,222	8,300	9,080
Trujillo.....	26,328	41,490	4,200	1,434	2,670	5,000
Maracaibo.....	52,006	224,221	724	1,880	5,397	5,000
Guayana.....	54,814	2,757	148	778	628	2,000
Total.....	2,086,724	1,910,342	39,338	78,164	140,507	362,507

Cattle, hides, and skins exports from 1831 to 1846.—The following table shows the head of cattle and number of hides and skins exported during fifteen years, viz, from 1831 to 1846:

Year.	Head of cattle.	Hides.	Skins.	Year.	Head of cattle.	Hides.	Skins.
		<i>Number.</i>	<i>Number.</i>			<i>Number.</i>	<i>Number.</i>
1831.....	1,325	76,671	132,346	1839.....	8,949	139,139	319,463
1832.....	1,328	76,671	132,246	1840.....	9,968	168,337	425,667
1833.....	1,667	61,297	105,411	1841.....	11,648	156,973	417,348
1834.....	3,491	58,168	139,444	1842.....	12,933	252,640	397,550
1835.....	4,568	58,083	78,165	1843.....	10,979	237,729	315,441
1836.....	3,219	76,280	217,574	1844.....	14,894	253,378	374,282
1837.....	7,912	111,550	230,747	1845.....	17,661	358,991	463,219
1838.....	9,809	121,608	212,616	1846.....	16,127	400,381	408,175



THE NATIONAL PANTHEON, CARACAS.
(Courtesy of the Venezuelan Government.)

Horned cattle from 1847 to 1864.—The number of horned cattle in Venezuela from 1847 to 1864 was as follows:

In 1847.....	5,503,000
In 1858.....	12,000,000
In 1864.....	5,800,000

Cattle, hides, and skins exports from 1847 to 1865.—The following table shows the head of cattle and number of skins and hides exported from 1847 to 1865:

Year.	Head of cattle.	Hides.	Skins.	Year.	Head of cattle.	Hides.	Skins.
		Number.	Number.			Number.	Number.
1847.....	15,976	436,342	378,441	1853.....	12,115	536,082	548,516
1848.....	15,832	365,554	284,062	1854.....	13,187	632,676	446,042
1849.....	12,000	339,374	450,354	1855.....	13,920	646,473	336,418
1850.....	13,626	398,394	494,068	1860.....	6,212	389,898	486,405
1851.....	15,929	626,502	583,583	1865.....	4,595	209,720	209,738
1852.....	13,316	542,999	522,167				

Reproduction rate of horses, mules, and asses in 1873.—The following table shows the average time and rate of reproduction of horses, mules, and asses, taking 1,000 head as a unit of comparison:

Kind of, 1,000 head each.	Born in one year.	Die young.	Avail-able.	Sold an-nually.	Left to increase stock.
Horses and mules.....	180	9	171	147	2
Asses and mules.....	206	10	196	188	8

Reproduction rate of horned cattle, sheep, goats, and hogs in 1873.—The following table shows the average time and rate of reproduction of horned cattle, sheep, goats, and hogs, taking 1,000 head as a unit of comparison:

Kind of, 1,000 head each.	Born in one year.	Die young.	Avail-able.	Cows for cheese.	Cows for milk.	Cows for raising calves.	Head for yearly sale.
Horned cattle.....	220	21	199	123	38	38	90
Sheep and goats.....	1,000	250	750	200	50	250	462
Hogs.....	3,000	1,500	1,500	.....	.....	250	950

Live stock from 1873 to 1888.—The following table gives the number of live stock of Venezuela from 1873 to 1888:^a

Kind.	1873.	1876.	1883.	1886.	1887.	1888.
Horned cattle.....	1,389,802	2,158,267	2,926,733	5,275,481	6,687,041	8,476,291
Sheep and goats.....	1,128,273	2,309,418	3,490,563	4,645,858	5,158,414	5,727,517
Hogs.....	362,597	669,112	976,500	1,439,185	1,666,489	1,929,693
Horses.....	98,800	102,815	291,603	344,615	365,408	387,646
Mules.....	47,200	155,020	247,703	277,691	238,897	800,555
Asses.....	281,000	519,820	658,764	769,920	813,224	866,964
Total.....	3,302,672	5,915,452	8,591,866	12,752,750	14,979,473	17,680,665

^a Venezuelan Yearbook, 1891, p. 135.

Live-stock increase (percentage) in 1888.—Stock raising has considerably increased in Venezuela during the recent years. In 1888 the figures comprising the preceding fifteen years of raising were as follows:

Kind.	Head.	Increase.
		<i>Per cent.</i>
Cattle	8, 476, 291	900
Goats and sheep	5, 727, 517	400
Hogs	1, 929, 898	500
Horses	387, 646	400
Mules	800, 566	600
Asses	858, 968	300

Cattle, hides, and skins exports from 1882 to 1888.—The following table shows the head of cattle and weight of hides and skins exported from 1882 to 1888:

Year.	Cattle.	Hides.	Skins.
	<i>Head.</i>	<i>Kilograms.</i>	<i>Kilograms.</i>
1882.....	5, 929	1, 385, 086	850, 581
1883.....	9, 458	1, 506, 404	1, 009, 454
1884.....	6, 975	2, 624, 433	881, 462
1887.....	10, 381	2, 268, 466	670, 778
1888.....	12, 582	2, 274, 294	773, 092

Live stock in 1894.—Table following shows the number of live stock in the Republic in 1894:

Federal District and States.	Horned cattle.	Sheep.	Goats.	Horses.	Mules.	Asses.	Hogs.	Total.
Federal District.....	2, 989	117	5, 395	1, 783	782	2, 536	1, 374	14, 926
Andes (Los).....	86, 930	43, 500	35, 100	19, 450	31, 725	15, 082	53, 425	285, 212
Bermúdez.....	150, 642	6, 522	186, 091	28, 432	13, 552	72, 289	106, 785	514, 313
Bolívar.....	1, 020, 052	11, 053	44, 794	47, 612	14, 396	54, 536	509, 123	1, 701, 566
Carabobo.....	11, 363	477	1, 719	4, 328	1, 304	13, 037	36, 714	61, 942
Falcón.....	65, 650	19, 200	524, 200	13, 330	7, 370	41, 800	671, 550	1, 343, 100
Lara.....	53, 198	.....	404, 132	13, 458	5, 687	47, 569	70, 325	594, 369
Miranda.....	583, 593	10, 079	141, 218	64, 772	10, 638	93, 213	85, 290	968, 793
Zamora.....	362, 278	206	20, 002	9, 939	1, 527	25, 571	80, 188	499, 711
Zulia.....	14, 945	42, 860	248, 305	5, 686	2, 205	17, 177	3, 450	334, 628
Total.....	2, 351, 590	184, 014	1, 560, 956	208, 790	89, 186	382, 810	1, 618, 214	6, 345, 560

Cattle exports in 1897.—A Brazilian firm in the city of Para sent, toward the end of 1897, a representative to Caracas for the purpose of arranging for regular shipments of Venezuelan cattle to Brazil. This agent contracted for monthly shipments of 800 head to be exported alternately via Puerto Cabello and the Orinoco district. Hitherto this firm had bought its cattle in the Argentine Republic, but the advantages of the change are obvious when the distance from Argentine ports to Para, requiring thirty days for transit, is compared with that of Puerto Cabello, which is within six or eight days of that city.

Cattle exports in 1898.—A contract was entered into in October, 1898, by five large stock raisers of the State of Miranda for the supply of 24,000 head of cattle. These were destined for Cuba and were delivered at the rate of 2,000 per month. The contract provided that the animals should be shipped at the rate of 2½ cents gold per pound, delivered at a station named Gonzalito, situated on the Caracas and Valencia Railroad, a short distance from Maracay; the cost of transportation from this station to Puerto Cabello, the port of embarkation, to be borne by the Cuban contractor. During the last week of October, 1898, oxen to the amount of 533, weighing from 400 to 650 pounds each, were shipped to Havana. A similar contract was entered into with a breeder of Guanta, who shipped in the same week 800 head. It requires from six to seven days to deliver the cattle in Havana from Puerto Cabello. The following additional shipments: 750 head of cattle to Santiago and 300 head to Manzanillo were made.

Live stock in 1899.—According to the latest returns the number of cattle, etc., in Venezuela in 1899 was: Horned cattle, 2,004,257; sheep, 176,668; goats, 1,667,272; horses, 191,079; mules, 89,186; asses, 312,810; hogs, 1,618,214.

Cattle exports from 1898 to 1900.—The export of animals on the hoof from Puerto Cabello from January 1, 1898, to June 30, 1900, aggregated 95,470 head, having a combined weight of 33,591,222 kilograms and an estimated value of 11,058,086 bolivars (\$2,134,210.60). From these figures it would appear that the average weight of the animals was 352 kilograms (776 pounds), worth 115.83 bolivars, or \$22 each.

Live stock in 1901.—The Consul-General of Venezuela in London reported that there existed more than 2,000,000 horned cattle in Venezuela. The exportation via Puerto Cabello and Guanta is between 50,000 and 60,000 head per annum, while a few are shipped via Barrancas and Ciudad Bolivar. The average weight of the animals exported is about 385 kilograms. Upon the passage between Venezuelan ports and Havana, Cuba, the loss in weight per head is about 12½ per cent. The average price of the animals fattened is about 7 bolivars per arroba (about 11 kilograms).

In 1901 there was but one saladero or packing house, the "Candelaria," in the State of Apure, near the Apure and Orinoco rivers, in the Republic. In this establishment about 100 head of cattle were slaughtered a day. The method of dealing with the meat was similar to that employed in Uruguay. It has been found, however, that it is generally more remunerative to ship the animal on the hoof, owing to the import duty of the salt necessary for curing purposes. It is believed that favorable opportunities now exist for developing the packing-house industry in Venezuela.

Cattle exports in 1901.—The following statement shows the exports of live cattle from the Bolivar State, Venezuela, to Cuba through the port of Cartagena de Judías:

	Head.		Head.
January	1,400	June	1,159
February	1,250	July	4,510
March	2,874	August	7,943
April	3,039	September	8,200
May	3,474		

Cattle exports from 1893 to 1903.—During the six years comprised from January 1, 1898, to December 31, 1903, the cattle exports from Puerto Cabello to Cuba, Curaçao, and Trinidad amounted to 207,550 head, weighing 69,311,371 kilograms, valued at \$4,058,429, which gives an average weight of 333.96 kilograms and an average value of \$19.47 per head of cattle.

In 1903 the exports of cattle amounted to 61,681 head, with a value of 4,433,500 bolivars, which is nearly one-third of the aggregate exports of the six years comprised from 1898 to 1903.

Of the total export of cattle of 207,550 head, 7,514 were cows and 96 horses and mares.

Hides and skins exported in 1903.—Venezuela exported this year 374,786 hides, 11,205 deerskins, and 70,053 goatskins through the port of Puerto Cabello. Germany and England combined do not take as much from the country as does the United States.

Cattle exports to Cuba, 1904.—During the months of April, May, and June, 1904, the exports of cattle to Cuba have amounted to 30,000 head of live stock.

Cattle shipments to the United States, 1904.—The United States Government has allowed 1,000 head of Venezuelan cattle to be imported through the port of New York consigned to a slaughtering house. No breeding cattle to be among the number imported and the usual customs duties will have to be paid on the cattle.

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CHAPTER VII.

MINING—MINERAL WEALTH, DEPOSITS, CONCESSIONS—MINING LAW.

MINING.

First mining epoch.—At the time of the Spanish conquest, or about the year 1550, various expeditions of gold hunters prospected the different sections of western Venezuela in search of the precious metals. To them is due the discovery in 1551 of the San Pedro mine, which was actively worked in 1552 but abandoned after the properties had been destroyed by an earthquake. In 1560, Fajardo, who first attempted the settlement of Caracas, discovered the mines of Los Teques and began their development, but, owing to the hostility of the Indians, who killed his miners and destroyed his works, he was compelled to abandon them. In 1584 settlements were made on the Tuy River which led to the discovery of the Apa, Carapa, and other mines in Baruta, Aroa, Chacao, Mariches, Pao de Zárate, Cipe, Cocorote, etc.

MINERAL WEALTH.

The mineral wealth of Venezuela, although not so extensively utilized as it could be, is undoubtedly very great, especially in the Bolívar State and the Yuruari and other Territories.

The principal mineral resources of Venezuela consist of gold, silver, copper, iron, tin, lead, quicksilver, asphalt, petroleum, coal, sulphur, asbestos, and precious stones. There is scarcely a mineral product known that can not be found in some part of the vast expanse of territory of Venezuela. This does not imply, however, that all are found at present in paying quantities, but gold, silver, copper, iron, lead, sulphur, asphalt, etc., are and could be mined with more profit under improved conditions of traffic and transportation.

MINERAL REGIONS.

Gold region.—Gold has been found in all the States and Territories of Venezuela, but the deposits of greatest extent and value are those

discovered in the Yuruari region where the famous El Callao mine is located. There are also outcroppings in all the mountainous lands between the Yaracuy River and the cities of San Felipe, Nirgua, and Barcelona. Near Carúpano are some valuable mines worked by New York capitalists that have yielded 7 ounces of gold per ton, besides others in the same locality that bear rich deposits of silver, copper, and lead.

Copper region.—Valuable mines of copper at Aroa, in the hills of San Felipe, 112 kilometers west of Puerto Cabello, have been long worked by an English company, and the ore, which is a red copper of excellent quality and preferred to the Swedish or Chilean ores, is exported to Europe. There are also undeveloped mines of this metal in Coro, Carabobo, Barquisimeto, and Mérida.

Iron region.—There are many indications of red hematite and magnetic iron ores in the littoral Cordilleras, in the mountains around Coro, Barinas, Barcelona, and Cumaná, and many parts of the Parima Mountains, but the most valuable deposit is near the Imataca River, a confluent of the lower Orinoco, where an inexhaustible quantity of magnetic Bessemer ore, assaying 80 per cent of pure metal, lies exposed to view and accessible to deep water.

Lead region.—A lead mine, undeveloped, lying near Tocuyo, has yielded some valuable specimens.

Asphalt region.—Asphalt exists in great abundance near the Pedernales River, an estuary of the Orinoco, opening into the Gulf of Paria, where petroleum wells have been sunk with good results and a company has been organized in Caracas to work the property. The machinery, etc., is on the ground and in process of erection. Inexhaustible mines of mineral pitch also exist near Maracaibo, Mérida, and Coro.

Petroleum region.—Petroleum wells are abundant in Cumaná and Trujillo. The presence of petroleum is announced in different places in the east and also on the coast west from Puerto Cabello, in the vicinity of Tocuyo, Capadare, and Curamichate.

Coal region.—Extensive coal deposits are found about 19 kilometers from Barcelona, and the area, only partially explored, discloses about 100 outcroppings of coal strata of regular formation, varying from 10 centimeters to 2 meters in thickness. These strata are located between layers of sandstone and schist in the general direction of east to west, with an inclination of 45° to the south. This is also the general direction of the valleys where these deposits lie, through which run streams to the Neverí River. Large quantities of coal crop out above the level of the streams and can be mined from horizontal tunnels and loaded upon cars without expensive pumping and lifting machinery. The quality of the product is such as is termed steamed coal and is easily



IMATACA IRON REGION.
(Courtesy of the Venezuelan Government.)

ignited, producing much combustible gas, with a small proportion of argillaceous cinder and a very small quantity of sulphur. In mining and transportation it loses in dust about 25 per cent, most of which can be recovered and worked into patent fuel. Analyses of 4 lots resulted in an average of 6 per cent water, 41 per cent volatile matter, 48 per cent fixed carbon, and 5 per cent cinders.

Sulphur region.—In Lagunillas, near Mérida, is a lake, the bottom of which is covered with urno or sesqui carbonate of soda. Mines of sulphur are to be found in Cumaná, Barcelona, and Coro.

Salt region.—Salt is found in nearly all of the States of the Venezuelan Union. According to the report of the department of finance of 1877 there were then 64 salt deposits, 1,447 salt wells, and 22 salt brooks. The total product of salt in the Republic was estimated at over 105,000,000 kilograms.

The following table gives the location and number of salt mines, wells, and brooks known in 1877:

State or Territory.	Salt deposits and mines.	Wells.	Brooks.
Zulia	5	1,420	.....
Falcón	20	27	17
Carabobo	5	.....	.....
Barcelona	7	.....	3
Cumaná	4	.....	.....
Nueva Esparta	10	.....	.....
Guayana	1	.....	.....
Apure	1	.....	.....
Bolívar .....	.....	.....	2
Guayana Territory	6	.....	.....
Colón	5	.....	.....
Total	64	1,447	22

Jet and other mineral regions.—Mines of jet and porcelain earth are found near Cumaná and Caracas. Granite is abundant in the Silla Mountain, near Caracas, and slate, marble, granite, gypsum, and lime exist in great quantities in the Coast Range and Parima mountains. Tin ores are also found near Barquisimeto.

Thermal and mineral waters region.—These are found in many parts of the country. The hot springs of Las Trincheras, on the railway between Puerto Cabello and Valencia, are especially noted, their waters maintaining a temperature of 206° F. With the exception of the Urijino Springs in Japan, having a temperature of 212° F., these are reputed to be the hottest springs in the world. Some remarkable springs are those of Coro, in La Quiva, near the road to Pedregal, where some forty streams have formed for themselves white basins like soup plates. These waters are of distinct odors and colors, and their temperatures range from 41° to 151° F.

MINERAL DEPOSITS.

According to the Venezuelan Yearbook of 1896, published by the Government of Venezuela, there are in the territory of the Republic 226 deposits of the following minerals:

Federal District.—Seven, to wit: Amethyst, antimony, limestone, garnet (2), silver, and lead.

Los Andes (the old State).—Forty-six, as follows: Red ocher, mineral tar (5), alum (2), asphalt, sulphur (3), coal (9), copper, guano (2), gaylussite, garnet (2), iron (4), magnesia, marble (2), gold, petroleum (2), slate (2), silver (2), lead, saltpeter, talc, trona, and gypsum.

Bermúdez (the old State).—Fifteen, as follows: Sulphur (4), coal (3), carbonate of lime, rock crystal, iron, magnesia, gold, petroleum, building stone, and silver.

Bolívar.—Fifty-one, as follows: Asphalt, rock crystal, phosphate of lime, guano, mercury (2), gold (44), and salt.

Carabobo.—Seven, as follows: Copper, phosphate of lime, gold (4), and lead.

Falcón.—Twelve, as follows: Asphalt, pitch, coal (4), copper (2), iron (2), gold, and silver.

Lara.—Nineteen, as follows: Amber, sulphate of lime, copper (6), tin, gold, silver (2), platinum (2), lead (4), and talc.

Miranda (the old State).—Forty-one, as follows: Copperas, grindstone, jet (2), coal (4), carbonate of lime, copper (4), rock crystal, quartz, diamond, tin, phosphate of lime, granite, iron (2), kaolin (2), magnesia, marble (3), ocher, gold (8), oxide of iron, silver, sphene, and gypsum (2).

Zamora.—Nineteen, as follows: Copperas, alum (2), pitch (2), guano, rock crystal, cyanite, iron, opals, gold (2), petroleum, slate, silver, saltpeter (2), talc, and gypsum.

Zulia.—Nine, as follows: Amber, asphalt (3), gold (4), and petroleum. The salt mines of the Republic are administered by the National Government, and they yearly yield about one and a half million bolívars. The principal salt deposits are those of Cumaná, Barcelona, Nueva Esparta, Falcón, and Zulia.

Of these 226 mineral deposits, 62 are gold mines, 29 coal mines, 14 copper ore, 10 iron ore, 9 silver, 7 sulphur, 7 lead, 6 asphalt, and 6 rock crystal, the rest containing many other metals.

The following table shows the number, location, and kind of mineral deposits known in Venezuela in 1894: ^a

Kind of mine.	Fédéral district.	State.								Total.
		Andes (Loa).	Bermúdez.	Bolívar.	Carabobo.	Falcón.	Lara.	Miranda.	Zamora.	
Copperas								1	1	2
Red lead		1								1
Tar		5								5
Alum		2							2	4
Amethyste	1									1
Amber							1			1
Asphaltum		1		1		1				3
Grindstone								1		1
Antimony	1									1
Jet								2		2
Sulphur		3	4							7
Pitch						1			2	3
Limestone	1									1
Sulphate of lime							1			1
Coal		9	3			4		4		24
Carbonate of lime			1					1		2
Gai-lussite		1								1
Garnet	2	2								4
Granite								1		1
Iron		4	1			2		2	1	10
Guano				1						1
Kaolin								2		2
Magnesia		1	1					1		3
Marble		2						3		5
Copper		1			1	2	6	4		14
Bat guano		2							1	3
Rock crystal			1	1				1	1	3
Quartz								1		1
Granite									1	1
Diamond									1	1
Tin							1	1		2
Phosphate of lime				1	1			1		3
Mercury				2						2
Ocher								1		1
Opals									1	1
Gold		1	1	44	4	1	1	8	2	62
Oxide of iron								1		1
Petroleum		2	1						1	5
Building stone			1						1	1
Slate		2								2
Silver	1	2	1			1	2	1	1	9
Platinum							2			2
Lead	1	1			1		4			7
Rock salt				1						1
Saltpeter		1							2	3
Sfena								1		1
Talc		1					1		1	3
Trona		1								1
Gypsum		1						2	1	4
Total	7	46	15	51	7	12	19	41	19	228

^a Venezuelan Yearbook, 1896. Eng. edit., pp. 165-170.

One hundred and sixty kilometers south of the Orinoco River lies a great expanse of territory, millions of hectares in extent, much of which is known to contain gold, iron, copper, and other valuable minerals. It is the firm conviction of highly competent engineers and other investigators who have carefully explored this region that when the extent, value, and comparative accessibility of its resources are once thoroughly understood, a strong stream of immigration will flow in that direction.

GOLD.

Gold fields.—Except in a few instances, Venezuelan gold fields have not been exploited by men with large capital, competent experience, and a knowledge of modern mining machinery and methods. This gold region does not attract the placer miner, for the reason that the

best deposits are quartz, and for their reduction an extensive plant is necessary.

Development.—Another obstacle to the rapid development of the Venezuelan gold fields is, and has been, the belief that the climate of that section of South America is a particularly unwholesome and deadly one. It is true that during certain months people who go into the Orinoco Valley from the north, and who do not take precautions of a reasonable nature, are likely to contract malarial fevers; but diseases of this kind may easily be avoided by proper attendance to diet, water, and clothing. There is in the Venezuelan gold regions an abundance of good water and a number of powerful waterfalls capable of being utilized in a commercial way.

Lack of transportation.—The gold fields of Venezuela also suffer grievously from lack of adequate transportation facilities. They lie not more than 160 kilometers from the banks of one of the world's greatest rivers, yet the miner has no railroad to transport all his supplies, which makes the operating of the mines very expensive. The gold therefore has to be worked under the same difficulties. The vital need of the region is a railroad connecting it with some point on the Orinoco River.

Number of gold mines.—There were 62 gold mines discovered in Venezuela up to 1894, of which 44 are to be found in the rich Yuruari region of the State of Bolívar.

Ciudad Bolivar gold exports from 1866 to 1885.—The amount of gold exported through Ciudad Bolivar from the Guayana gold mines from 1866 to 1885 was 1,730,712 ounces, valued at \$33,920,155. The Yuruari region yielded, in 1887 and 1888, 5,074 kilograms 923 grams of gold.

Callao gold mines.—Many gold mines have been discovered in several States of the Venezuelan Federal Union, but the richest of all have been the Callao gold mines, which are world renowned. Their total output from 1886 to 1890 was 6,983.87 kilograms of gold.

Gold output, 1871 to 1890, Callao mines.—The following figures, derived from official sources, show the products of the El Callao gold mines from 1871 to 1890:

Callao gold mine.

Year.	Quartz.	Gold.	Value.	Year.	Quartz.	Gold.	Value.
	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Ounces.</i>			<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Ounces.</i>	
1871.....	1 815	3 219.60	\$53,581.13	1882.....	22 405	105,896.08	\$1,951,957.41
1872.....	2 900	8 325.67	135,978.88	1883.....	24 750	134,392.68	2,488,636.85
1873.....	3 054	13 306.00	204,576.11	1884.....	30 986	177,055.16	3,288,761.85
1874.....	3 963	17 187.68	297,024.70	1885.....	47 228	114,454.07	2,108,365.19
1875.....	11 859	31 278.83	586,253.47	1886.....	78 708	181,040.20	3,328,883.92
1876.....	12 419	42 542.06	801,747.83	1887.....	66 167	a 78,863.71	1,366,676.72
1877.....	11 585	48 168.58	918,940.73	1888.....	64 152	a 52,568.73	969,246.10
1878.....	9 670	49 638.88	946,331.36	1889.....	57 301	a 52,971.36	989,307.02
1879.....	11 894	40 306.54	749,417.47	1890.....	53 066	a 49,439.96	919,962.99
1880.....	18 624	54 013.71	1,000,090.10				
1881.....	24 978	72 254.62	1,340,378.20	Total.	540,472	1,320,929.09	b24,481,732.58

a These sums are stated in troy ounces; all others in Spanish ounces.

b Values given in United States currency.

Callao mines, gold output 1884 to 1899.—During fifteen years ending 1899 the Callao gold mines produced \$23,000,000 American gold.

Callao and other gold mines and their product.—The product of the Callao and other gold mines of the Yuruari region in 1887 and 1888, was as follows:

Company.	1887.		1888.		Total.	
	Kilo-grams.	Grams.	Kilo-grams.	Grams.	Kilo-grams.	Grams.
El Callao.....	2,154	180	1,643	701	3,797	886
Chile.....	292	648	70	343	362	996
La Unión.....	201	606	195	457	397	65
El Callao bis.....			21	351	21	351
Cicapa.....		893				893
El Chocó.....			8	155	8	155
Venezuelan Austin (Limited).....	1	882	151	431	156	313
Gold from several companies.....	33	887	186	344	220	231
Clay and amalgamated gold.....	45	475	69	606	115	83
Total.....	2,780	523	2,344	400	5,074	923

Yuruari gold mines product 1866 to 1895.—The total product of the mines of this district from 1866 to 1895 is estimated at over 90,000 kilograms.

Ciudad Bolivar gold exports 1875 to 1896.—The total exports of gold bars, gold ore, and gold concentrates in general from Ciudad Bolivar from July 1, 1875, to June 30, 1896, according to the latest official data, amounted to 67,987 kilos, valued at \$34,129,348. From July 1, 1896, to June 30, 1898, the total exports of gold through the same port amounted to 74,741 kilos, valued at \$37,064,231.

Gold production of Venezuela 1896 to 1903.—The following table shows the gold production of Venezuela from 1896 to 1903:

Year.	Gold product.	Year.	Gold product.
1896.....	\$948,500	1901.....	\$321,200
1897.....	1,057,400	1902.....	438,800
1898.....	1,089,300	1903.....	600,000
1899.....	568,500		
1900.....	821,200	Total.....	5,864,900

Gold production in America 1896 to 1903.—The Mint Bureau of the United States gives the following data concerning the production of gold in the American republics from 1896 to 1903:

Country.	1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.
United States.....	\$53,068,000	\$57,363,000	\$64,463,000	\$71,058,400
Mexico.....	6,504,000	7,500,000	8,500,000	8,500,000
Argentina.....	315,000	137,700	137,700	137,700
Bolivia.....	250,300	348,500	117,600	149,904
Brazil.....	1,001,100	1,204,200	1,563,700	2,149,500
Chile.....	611,000	840,000	998,600	1,298,600
Colombia.....	2,200,100	2,227,200	2,158,700	1,844,600
Ecuador.....	132,900	132,900	39,500	47,900
Peru.....	116,600	628,000	628,000	860,700
Uruguay.....	33,600	39,800	34,400	27,500
Venezuela.....	948,500	1,057,400	1,089,300	568,500
Central America.....	372,300	466,800	477,800	586,100

Country.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903. ^a
United States	\$79,171,000	\$78,666,700	\$80,000,000	\$74,425,840
Mexico	9,000,000	10,284,800	10,153,100	12,550,000
Argentina	43,700	30,000	.....	50,000
Bolivia	119,600	119,600	4,700	150,000
Brazil	2,775,400	2,775,400	1,994,600	2,900,000
Chile	1,627,600	1,067,200	575,200	575,000
Colombia	1,194,900	2,801,300	2,522,600	2,000,000
Ecuador	107,700	110,000	200,000	250,000
Peru	1,085,200	575,200	2,328,100	1,750,000
Uruguay	80,800	31,700	57,800	35,000
Venezuela	\$21,200	\$21,200	433,600	600,000
Central America	500,000	640,300	2,001,900	1,600,000

^a Engineering and Mining Journal, Jan. 7, 1904.

Venezuela holds the fifth place among the gold-producing republics of America, as shown by the foregoing table.

COPPER.

Aroa copper mines.—There were in 1894 fourteen copper mines already discovered. Of these the most productive have been those of Aroa, which are some 112 kilometers distant from Puerto Cabello.

Copper ore production 1800 and 1838.—These mines produced in 1800 the amount of 1,500 quintals of copper ore, and in 1838 70,530 quintals.

Copper ore production from 1880 to 1894.—The Aroa copper ore products and values from 1880 to 1894 are given in the table following:

Year.	Copper ore.	Value.	Year.	Copper ore.	Value.
	<i>Tons.</i>			<i>Tons.</i>	
1880	10,500	\$442,230.00	1887	9,048	\$174,164.19
1881	17,020	730,740.00	1888	20,994	781,974.18
1882	17,098	769,200.00	1889-90	16,432	379,208.87
1883	23,843	1,161,097.98	1891	38,341	.....
1884	15,974	553,612.47	1892	21,427	.....
1885	32,585	699,896.08	1893	14,911	.....
1886	25,993	520,566.10	1894	7,708	.....

^a U. S. Currency.

IRON.

Iron-ore deposits.—In 1894 there were 10 known iron-ore deposits in Venezuela.

“The Iron World” for July 27, 1900, says that the supreme court of Venezuela has decided the suit of the “Orinoco Iron Company,” a corporation organized in the State of Wisconsin, United States, which decision gives the company control of some 5,665 hectares of land rich in a number of mineral deposits. The concession was obtained in 1883, being originally acquired by an American citizen, formerly manager of the “El Callao” mine of Venezuela. Only a few cargoes of the iron ore have ever been brought to the United States, but it is reported that arrangements are being made for opening the mines and providing for a regular business.

Iron mines.—Regarding the ore of the mines in question, an engineer who has twice visited them in a professional capacity reports that the first occurrence of the ore is on the Imataca Mountains, about 86 kilometers from the mouth of the Orinoco. The first mines were opened near the island of Corosimo, and large vessels are able to approach within 15 meters of the shore. At this point the ore is about 487 meters from the river and some 60 meters above it, appearing as boulders from 45 kilograms to 100 tons in weight, and covering the tops of the hills for a distance of 914 meters in length and 30 meters in width. The engineer estimates that there were between 150,000 and 200,000 tons of Bessemer ore in sight, and thinks that the true vein has a thickness of 3 meters. Boulders of ore are found to the westward of this place for 56 kilometers. In this direction the hills increase in height and the ore increases with the size of the hills, the outcrop being at some points from 30 to 91 meters wide and thousands of tons lie at the surface. A sample of the Imataca ore, as analyzed in a report to the United States Geological Survey, gave the following results: Metallic iron, 66.76; silica, 0.69; lime, 3.28; manganese, 0.07; sulphur, 0.011; phosphorus, 0.0327. It would appear, therefore, that the Orinoco ores may come into the market as rivals to those now brought to the seacoast cities of the United States.

Iron-ore shipments.—On January 6, 1901, the British steamer *Tresco* arrived at Baltimore with 700 tons of iron ore from Manoa, where deposits of this mineral are being developed about 112 kilometers from the mouth of the Orinoco River. This vessel is said to be the first merchantman to load ore there.

Iron-ore mine transfer.—Negotiations are reported as pending between the property owners and a British ironmaster with a view to the sale of vast iron-ore lands, controlled principally by New York parties, at Imataca, on the Orinoco River, Venezuela. Should the deal be consummated, extensive arrangements will be made for the shipping of the ore to ports in both the United States and Great Britain. The property, which is reported to be the largest and most valuable of the known workable deposits on this continent, contains, it is claimed, 67 per cent of metallic ore, while the average percentage shown by United States lake ores is said to be some 60 per cent. The British parties propose to import the ore with a view to its taking the place of Spanish iron, which is at present the principal foreign ore utilized by English mills. The production of Bilbao ores is said to be rapidly diminishing, the metallic average of the ore being but 50 per cent.

ASPHALT.

There were six known asphalt deposits of importance in Venezuela in 1894. The richest are the following:

Pedernales asphalt.—On the island of Pedernales, which is formed

by the two delta streams, the Cucirina and the Pedernales, its northern shore being that of the Gulf of Paria, is found a vast supply of asphaltum. The land is low, intersected by small streams, and containing many ponds of salt and brackish water. In such ponds on the northern shore is found the asphaltum known as Pedernales asphalt. This differs in the main from that found at La Brea, in Trinidad, in being generally more liquid, purer, and freer from earthy matter, and in containing a greater percentage of oils. Like the deposits at Trinidad, this is found in a series of springs in conjunction with water, and, as at Trinidad, it forms a thick flooring of pitch in places, and to an appreciable depth. The Pedernales asphalt is remarkably pure, and when refined presents a hard, lustrous, vitreous fracture, and in appearance is identical with the Egyptian refined, known in commerce as "Epuré." As found, it is a thick, black, viscous mass, without odor and strongly adherent. The process of refining consists in merely boiling it, thus depriving it of a large proportion of the higher volatiles and all contained moisture. Refining may be carried on to any degree, even to the extent of complete carbonization. The deposits at Pedernales may be said to be the same, geologically considered, as that of Trinidad at La Brea, notwithstanding that the Trinidad contains a quantity of earthy matter almost inseparable, although mechanically mixed. These earths are mainly very finely divided clays held in suspension by the viscous asphaltum. The presence of these impurities adds largely to the weight, and while proving but little detriment to the many uses of the material debars it from others. The Pedernales deposit can be used for any purpose known in the arts and is as desirable for varnishes and chemical compounds as it is useful in increasing the elasticity of the asphalts which contain too small a percentage of volatiles. The Pedernales asphalt can be refined "to order," thus exactly fulfilling desired conditions imposed by users. This makes its utility much wider than is possible to deposits of hard, earthy character.

Maracaibo asphalt.—A series of mines (or lakes) situated on the shores of Lake Maracaibo are worked by an American company, which has built a railroad from the mines to the shore of the lake. During the last six months of 1902 the company exported 3,355 tons of asphalt, and hopes to ship soon 2,000 tons monthly. They ship crude and refined asphalt.

Asphalt imports from Venezuela in 1900 and 1901.—The asphalt imported by the United States in 1901 from Venezuela amounted to 18,605 long tons, as against 11,579 tons in 1900, an increase of 7,026 tons, or 60 per cent. The total imports from Trinidad and Venezuela in 1901 amounted to 134,189 long tons, as against 105,266 tons in 1900. The chief source of the importation of asphaltum in the United States is the wonderful lake of pitch filling the crater of an extinct volcano



NARIGUAL MINES—ENTRANCE TO THE MAIN GALLERY.
(Photograph by V. Amato, Barcelona, Venezuela.)

on the island of Trinidad, off the coast of Venezuela. In addition, imports are made from the State of Bermúdez in Venezuela.

COAL.

Twenty-four coal deposits were known in Venezuela in 1894.

A mining expert published recently an article on the coal trade of South America in the Mining Journal of New York City from which the following, referring to the coal deposits of Venezuela, is an abstract:

The question of an economical fuel supply for northern South America, a region developing within easy reach of the commercial influence of the United States, has at times been discussed with some interest, and the fact that coal commands a high price there is frequently taken as a basis for the most exaggerated claims in regard to the value of certain lignite deposits found in South America, near the Caribbean Sea. I have during the past few years examined all the seacoast from the Gulf of Darien to the mouth of the Orinoco River, and a number of times have been called to report on the various deposits found in those regions. These vary from an impure recent lignite to a good appearing Cretaceous brown coal, and are reported from the following places:

Coal deposits.—West of the Orinoco River in the State of Bermúdez, Venezuela, a brown coal of apparently good quality.

In the regions back of Puerto Cabello, Venezuela, a brown coal, not so compact as that found in the State of Bermúdez.

Near Maracaibo and the State of Bermúdez, in Venezuela, apparently a soft lignite.

Brown coal.—The term brown coal is intended to mean a more compact variety as distinguished from a very soft lignite that frequently crumbles in the hand and is quite characteristic of many of the South American deposits. After the movements that finally formed the Andes Mountains in Cretaceous times, the northern coast of South America presented a series of deep embayments represented now by the valleys of the Atrato, Magdalena, Ranchería, and Orinoco rivers and the streams flowing into the Gulf of Maracaibo. These embayments penetrated far to the south. The conditions for rapid sedimentations could not have been more favorable, and sand bars, lagoons, and swamps, gradually working seaward, were natural points for plant accumulations, and formed a series of lignite beds generally only a few inches deep, but which at some places are apparently a very considerable accumulation. In the State of Bermúdez, Venezuela, there are extensive deposits of a good quality of brown coal, resembling very much the Cretaceous coals of the Andes in its general appearance as well as in the lithological characters of adjacent rocks and formations. The other coal deposits, found near the coast, excepting perhaps some in western Venezuela, are all in shales of soft sandstone, apparently formed out of miocene sediments.

Eastern deposits.—In eastern Venezuela, where the rocks are firmer, a great deal of work has been done, and a short railroad has been constructed from the mines to Guanta, the seaport, where a plant is in operation for combining the coal with asphalt to make a patent fuel similar to the Cardiff blocks.

Western deposits.—At the mines in western Venezuela some effort has been made, but, though money has been spent in opening the properties, there are no practical results.

The great quantities of asphalt found in Venezuela will probably yield desirable material to mix with the lignite to form briquets, and may be the basis of a future important industry. In all this vast region, however, workable seams of lignite are indicated only at a few distant locations.

Transportation facilities.—There is all the ocean steamship trade that now carries coal from a distance at the expense of freight capacity; there is the river steamboat trade on the Orinoco; there is an increasing railroad system to be supplied, and the growing demands of the cities of Caracas, La Guaira, Maracaibo, etc., though this last will probably be supplied with fuel, in part at least, from its natural-gas wells.

At present most of the coal used in northern South America is supplied from Cardiff, but some is purchased in the United States, and the future of the trade is well worth considering.^a

Quality of coal.—The Mining Journal, of London, quotes Mr. E. Cortese, a noted European mining expert, as saying that coal occurs widely distributed throughout Venezuela. "It is invariably of Oligocene age. The principal centers are to the south of Carúpano, the Rfo Casani, Naricual, Capiricual, Querequal, and Araguaita. At Naricual the coal contains 1.25 per cent of moisture, 38.43 per cent of volatile constituents, and 2.83 per cent of ash. The yield of coke is 58.49 per cent and the calorific power 9,052.8 calories."

SULPHUR.

Seven sulphur deposits had been discovered in Venezuela up to 1894, and the following is a condensed report of the sulphur deposits of Venezuela, which are described as so promising, but which as yet have not been extensively worked.

Sulphur deposits.—In a direction south-southeast from Carúpano, at a distance of about 15 kilometers ($9\frac{1}{2}$ miles) in a straight line, there are some immense deposits of sulphur mineral, located on the southern slope of the mountains, 300 meters (984 feet) above sea level. These deposits have remained unexplored until recently, owing to the great difficulty of transporting the mineral to the seashore.

Method of transportation.—The only method of transportation to the present time has been on the backs of mules and donkeys, which has

^a Article by Engineer Francis C. Nicholas.

made the cost of the product too great to permit its exportation to the markets of Europe and America. The present proprietor of the mines has, in a degree, overcome this difficulty by securing from the Venezuelan Government a concession to build a wire tramway from the deposits to one of the many caños (branches of rivers) which flow into the Gulf of Paria, and to navigate those caños by means of lighters and tugboats which will carry the sulphur to vessels loading for foreign ports. The length of the tramway will exceed 10 kilometers ($6\frac{1}{2}$ miles), and the river navigation is more than 30 kilometers (20 miles).

Number of deposits.—There are five large deposits of sulphur mineral, quite free from any overgrowth, presenting a surface area of about 300,000 square meters (9,113 square yards). Besides these there are a number of smaller deposits covered with overgrowth, which will gradually be cleared while working the larger areas. It has been found that all of the deposits penetrate to a great depth and are practically inexhaustible.

Quality of mineral.—The quality of the mineral has been tested by London experts, five different samples giving an average of $62\frac{1}{2}$ per cent of pure sulphur. A sample sent to a German chemist showed over 83 per cent pure sulphur. The richness of the deposits may be judged when it is known that the best Sicilian minerals never contain more than 40 per cent of pure sulphur and the average is but 25 per cent.

Cost of production.—It is estimated that the cost of this sulphur on board ship will not exceed \$4 per ton, and that the cost laid down in the port of New York will not be in excess of \$6 per ton.

Sulphur company.—A company floated in Germany with a capital of 2,000,000 marks (\$476,000) for the purpose of exploiting the immense sulphur deposits situated near Carúpano, is actively at work setting up the aerial cable by which sulphur will be carried from the mine to the port, a distance of about 18 kilometers (11.18 miles). The landing wharf is finished, and the managers only await the completion of the wire-rope railroad to begin loading on a large scale. The company has at the present time in its employ about 100 laborers. With this force and with the additional help that will be added when the abundance of the product to be extracted renders it necessary, the company expects to mine a large quantity of sulphur. The crude sulphur will be shipped from the port of Carúpano to Europe and the United States. The indications are that the product of these mines will soon become a vast and important industry of the Republic.

SALT.

Salt exports in 1901.—During the year 1901, the amount of salt exported from the mines or deposits of Zulia amounted to 3,363,500 kilograms, the revenue to the nation resulting from export duties

amounting to 978,537.62 bolivars. In the quantity exported must be included 598,000 kilograms sent to the government of the Táchira, the duty on which represented 169,935 bolivars.

Coche salt.—The report of the Chamber of Commerce of Maracaibo further states that the salt from the deposits of Coche is white and firm and that large quantities are distributed throughout the various States of the Republic. White salt is also obtained from the island of San Carlos. The yellow salt is consumed in considerable quantities in the (former) Andes States, the only consumption of the white variety in that section being in the salting factories in the State of Zulia.

Method of transportation.—The salt for export is generally packed in gunny sacks and then in packages of 105 pounds gross weight, and the ships which carry the cargoes to the ports on the coast of Lake Maracaibo and its tributary rivers take it on board at the very places where it is mined. That used in the State of Zulia is packed in sacks of 125 pounds net, and is brought to Maracaibo in schooners. It is then distributed throughout the State of Táchira and a part of the Department of Santander, in the Republic of Colombia, where salt of other classes finds no market.

Araya salt.—The rich salt mine upon the peninsula of Araya, discovered by Niño in 1499, from which the Government of Venezuela has derived \$2,753,761.44 of revenue since 1874, is still worked. It consists of an inexhaustible deposit of almost pure salt, which is mined at very small labor and expense.

Salt product from 1832 to 1881.—The following table gives the product of the Venezuelan salt mines from 1832 to 1881.

Year.	Salt product.	Year.	Salt product.
1832	^a \$67,060	1860	^a \$143,215
1835	16,610	1865	10,422
1840	59,637	1871	54,253
1845	188,979	1875	185,010
1850	255,111	1881	225,831
1855	138,280		

^a U. S. currency.

Salt product from 1885 to 1894.—The following table shows the production of the Venezuelan salt deposits and mines from 1885 to 1894:

Year.	Permits.	Gross returns.	Net returns.
	<i>Kilograms.</i>	<i>Bolivars. b</i>	<i>Bolivars. b</i>
1885	15,123,200	1,371,845.00	600,000.00
1886	16,425,300	1,520,504.81	608,029.83
1887	16,835,667	1,652,321.69	826,160.84
1888	16,279,800	1,648,121.49	824,060.75
1889	16,195,500	1,639,982.61	819,991.30
1890	14,116,650	1,426,826.92	819,022.27
1891	13,170,000	1,342,677.27	872,740.23
1892	6,222,100	631,468.15	411,523.26
1893	16,491,850	1,701,529.21	1,198,637.34
1894	17,084,600	1,762,126.57	1,220,872.77
Total	147,444,660	14,697,403.72	8,201,088.59
United States currency		\$2,989,480.00	\$1,640,207.00

^b Five bolivars taken as equivalent to the United States dollar.

Yearly average returns.

Kilograms	14,744,466
Gross returns	\$293,948
Net returns	\$164,020

General statement of salt obtained and exploited from the salt deposits and mines of Venezuela, and of the quantities in stock, for 1894.

Salt deposits or mines.	Salt produced.			Salt exploited.			Stock on hand December 31, 1894.
	Former stock on hand.	New productions.	Total.	For domestic consumption.	Waste in storage.	Total.	
	<i>Kilograms.</i>	<i>Kilograms.</i>	<i>Kilograms.</i>	<i>Kilograms.</i>	<i>Kilograms.</i>	<i>Kilograms.</i>	<i>Kilograms.</i>
Coche	5,722,250	11,254,760	16,977,010	7,896,650	788,800	8,685,450	8,389,560
Araya	680,060	2,786,901	6,466,951	5,343,500	.....	5,343,500	1,123,451
Barcelona .....	.....	183,700	183,700	183,700	.....	183,700	.....
Maracaibo	678,731	4,980,840	5,659,571	2,982,800	920	2,983,720	2,725,851
Coro	77,350	1,069,700	1,147,050	1,006,450	.....	1,006,450	140,600
Total	7,156,381	23,275,901	30,434,282	17,365,100	789,720	18,154,820	12,329,462

Salt product from 1900 to 1903.—The following table shows the quantity and value of the salt produced in Venezuela from 1900 to 1903:

Year.	Quantity.	Value.
	<i>Kilograms.</i>	
1900	6,026,460	α \$215,462
1901	13,467,423	565,515
1902	13,112,699	529,122
1903	7,576,742	296,780

α U. S. currency.

MINERAL PRODUCTS.

The mineral products exhibited by Venezuela at the Chicago World's Fair (1893) were as follows:

MINERALS.

Opal. Tinaquillo.

Rock-crystals from fissures in the gneissic mountains, neighborhood of Caracas.

Chrysotile in serpentine. Barquisimeto.

Asbestos in gneiss. Caracas.

Double-refracting calcic spar, from the neighborhood of Santa Lucia and Santa Teresa, on the River Tuy.

Talcum, from the neighborhood of Caracas.

Urao (sesquicarbonate of lime), from the bottom of the small lake of Lagunillas near Mérida. The finest quality is called *espejuelo*, and sells about 80 cents a pound; it is used for preparing *chimó*, a highly condensed extract of tobacco, which is almost indispensable to the inhabitants of the Cordillera.

Gaylussite, sesquicarbonate of soda and lime, from the bottom of the lake of Lagunillas near Maracaibo. It is known in the country under the name of *clavos* (*i. e.*, *nails*), in allusion to the shape of the crystal-

ORES.

Galena. Barquisimeto.

Galena. Caracas.

Galena. Carabobo.

Galena. Cumaná.

VEIN GOLD.

Auriferous quartz and vein rock, from the mine El Callao, Yuruari Territory, Guiana. The district of Yuruari has realized to a certain degree the old fable of the famous Dorado, the amount of gold exported from 1866 to 1890 being of 70,192,400 kilograms, valued at \$46,650,197, the larger part of which has been produced by the Callao mine.

COPPER ORES.

Copper ore and other ores (iron, silver, gold), from the mines of Chacao, near *Ciudad de Cura*, in the State of Miranda.

Copper and antimony with gold and silver. Barquisimeto.

Siliceous and argillaceous limestone, with some glucina, oxide of chrome, and small fibers of asbestos. Barquisimeto.

Siliceous limestone with galena. Barquisimeto.

Sulphuret of iron and copper, with antimony, silver, and some traces of gold. Barquisimeto.

Sulphuret of iron and copper, with antimony, gold, and silver. Barquisimeto.

Sulphuret of iron and arsenicum. Barquisimeto.

Siliceous limestone with lead and traces of silver. Barquisimeto.

Sulphuret of copper and iron with antimony, silver, and gold in small quantities. Barquisimeto.

Sulphuret of iron, with copper, antimony, gold, and silver, from the mines of Buria. Barquisimeto.

Copper, gold, silver, antimony, argentiferous galena, tin, sulphur, guano, niter; from different localities in the section Yaracuy of the State of Lara.

Copper ore (mostly carbonate), from El Carrizal.

Green and blue copper carbonate, from the mines of Guaicaipuro, State of Miranda.

Sulphuret of copper with silver and gold. Barquisimeto.

Copper ore, containing some silver and gold. Barquisimeto.

Copper ore, with some antimony, gold, and traces of silver. Barquisimeto.

Copper ore (pyrites and carbonate) and regulus. In Aroa (Yaracuy).

The Aroa mines are located in the section Yaracuy of the State Lara, on the banks of the river Aroa, which flows into the Caribbean Sea. Their distance from the port of Tucacas is about 143 kilometers and their height above sea level 355 meters. They were discovered, in 1605, by Alonso de Oviedo; but during the whole epoch of Spanish rule the

produce was very insignificant. In the last century they became, by inheritance, the property of the Liberator Simón Bolívar, and were afterwards sold by his family to an Englishman. To-day they belong to an English company in London, whose capital is formed by 306,447 shares of £3 each. The ore is found in a kind of slaty limestone and is principally chalcopyrite, called *yellow ore* by the miners, containing 9 to 12 per cent of metallic copper. This ore undergoes several transformations, being changed into red oxide (*ruby ore*) and carbonate of copper (*malaquite and azurite*). Nearly all the output is shipped to Swansea, in England; only the poor carbonate is reduced first to regulus containing from 25 to 30 per cent of copper. From 1878 to 1891 there were shipped 329,218 tons of ore (averaging 11.25 per cent of copper) and 53,053 tons of regulus (averaging 27.75 per cent). These quantities represent, therefore, 51,759 tons of metal, which, at the average price of £54 per ton, make a total of £2,794,986, or nearly \$14,000,000 American gold. The copper from Venezuela goes to Swansea under the name of "quebrada" ore and holds in that market the second place after Chile.

IRON ORES.

Iron ore from Imataca.—The iron mine of Imataca is the property of a North American citizen. It is situated 86 kilometers from the "Boca Grande" of the Orinoco, in the Federal Territory "Delta," on the caño Corosimo, in 8° 29' latitude north and 61° 18' longitude west from Greenwich. By analysis it was found that the ore contains from 67 to 70 per cent of pure iron, and is to be classified as magnetic-specular iron ore (oligiste). It can be reduced without difficulty and yields a first-class steel. The mine is about 500 meters distant from the caño Corosimo, which is deep enough for vessels of from 2,000 to 3,000 tons burden. The veins have been exposed for a distance of more than 8 kilometers, and can be worked easily; there are besides about 200,000 tons of surface ore. As the mine is only 2,000 miles from Baltimore or New York, it offers more advantages for transport than the mines of Bilbao in Spain, or those of Sweden, which are from 4,000 to 5,000 miles distant from said ports. In addition, it must be observed that the Imataca iron is only equaled by the very best Swedish produce.

Bog iron ore.—Caracas.

Iron ore (iron pyrites).—State of Bermúdez.

Iron ore (oligiste), from Manoa, Territory of the Orinoco.

MINERAL COAL.

Mineral coal, mines of Naricual, near Barcelona. Composition: Water, 6; volatile substances, 43; carbon, 45; leaves, 6 of ashes (containing about 3.3 per 100 of iron oxide), and yields a very compact coke.

Mineral coal, from the same locality.

Mineral coal, from San Fernando, near Cumanacoa, at a distance of about 56 kilometers from Cumaná.

Mineral coal, from Villa de Cura.

Mineral coal, from Cocollar, Cumaná.

Mineral coal, from Valle de la Pascua, Guárico. A kind of lignite.

Lignite, from Nirgua, in the State of Carabobo. Shows still much of the structure of wood, which appears to be that of conifer, perhaps a species of *Podocarpus*.

Mineral coal, from Cumarebo (Coro). A very good lignite that burns freely with a white blaze and leaves but 3.34 per cent ash. From an analysis made some years ago in Leipzig it contains: Carbon, 61.49; hydrogen, 5.36; oxygen, 29.81. Its calorific effect is therefore equal to 548,155 calories, while Cardiff coal gives 721,215, so that 100 tons of this latter are equal to 132.8 tons of Cumarebo coal.

Azabache (jet), from Tocuyo. Formerly used for making mourning ornaments.

ASPHALTUM.

Asphaltum (chapapote), from Cumaná.

Solid asphaltum, from Maracaibo.

Liquid asphaltum, from Pedernales, Delta of the Orinoco.

Petroleum, from Pedernales, Delta of the Orinoco.

Mineral products, from the asphaltum mines and petroleum wells of Pedernales, Delta of the Orinoco. *Pedernales* is the name of the most northern channel by which the Orinoco flows into the sea. A chartered company is actually working in a certain locality on its banks what appears to be a very promising deposit of asphaltum and petroleum, the outcome being highly satisfactory.

Petroleum, from Cumaná, near Manicuare.

Petroleum, from Betijoque, mountains of Trujillo.

BUILDING STONES, MARBLES, ETC.

Marble; two samples, one from the "Morro," of Valencia, the other from Puerto Cabello.

Marble, from Guanango near Borburata, at a short distance from Puerto Cabello. A rough block from the surface and several polished ones.

Marble, from Carúpano.

Stalactites, Cumaná.

Piedra sillar, a large-grained somewhat calcareous sandstone from the younger cretaceous formation in the mountains of Cumaná. It is used as a building stone and also for making drip stones or water filters.

Samples of stones used now for street pavement in Caracas. It is a metamorphic limestone of great hardness, which is to be found rather abundantly in the neighborhood of the city.

CLAYS AND OTHER FIOTILE MATERIALS.

Kaoline, or pure alumina. Island of Margarita.

Kaoline, from Cumanacoa.

Compact kaoline, from Barquisimeto.

Pipe clay, with traces of lignite and petroleum, from Cumaná.

LIMESTONE, CEMENTS, AND ARTIFICIAL STONE.

Magnesian limestone, somewhat siliceous, and containing, besides, clay and oxide of iron. Barquisimeto.

SALTS, SULPHUR, FERTILIZERS.

Niter, Bermúdez.

Native feather alum, from Yaracuy, State of Lara.

Sulphur, from the "azufrales," near Carúpano.

Tierra de caracolillo, i. e., shell earth, from lands which formerly were covered by the waters of the lake of Valencia. It is a kind of clay, full of small shells of mollusks (especially *Ancylus moricandi*, *Hydrobia coronata*, *H. stagnalis*, *H. ernesti*, *Planorbis pronus*) and a large number of sponge-spiculæ and diatomaceous shells. It is exceedingly fertile.

Phosphate of lime, from Los Roques, a small group of islands, due north of La Guaira.

Samples of green, gray, and black phosphatic earth, from the island El Gran Roque. Colon Territory.

Phosphatic guano, from Aves Island.

Guano, from Santa Fé (Cumaná).

Guano, from Aguas Blancas, District of Araure, State of Zamora.

MINERAL WATERS.

Mineral water, from "Las Trincheras." The springs are located on the northern slope of the mountain chain between Puerto Cabello and Valencia, and have a temperature of 206° F., the temperature of the air being about 76 degrees. The chemical composition was investigated by Boussingault with the result that the water is sulphurous and sodic. There exists a comfortable establishment near the spring for the use of visitors.

Samples of sediment left by the water of the spring of "Las Trincheras," in the basin from which it issues.

Alkaline water from Baibacoa (Coro).

Alkaline water from Caujaro (Coro).

Alkaline water from Guadalupe (Coro). This water contains chloride of sodium, 0.344; sulphate of soda, 0.690; bicarbonate of soda, 0.771; carbonate of iron, 0.318; carbonate of lime, 0.148; silicon, 0.371 (total, 2,642 grammes per liter).

PRINCIPAL PROVISIONS OF THE MINING LAW.

Mining legislation.—The mining legislation of Venezuela was formerly similar to that of the other States under the dominion of Spain; but since the establishment of independence it has entirely freed itself from such legislation, and has passed many new and elaborate laws on the subject of mines.

Present mining law.—The existing code, which was promulgated on January 23, 1904, contains some special features, and will therefore be treated in detail.

Classification of minerals.—Are considered as mines every accumulation of inorganic metalliferous substances, or of combustible matter, deposited on the surface or in the interior of the earth, or of precious stones admitting of regular mining work and of being used as jewelry. Asphalt, tar, pitch, petroleum, kaolin clay, phosphates, saltpeter, colombin, guano, fertilizers (whether mineral or not) come under the same classification, as also building and ornamental stones, sand, slates, etc., and all other material of this kind.

Pearls, coral, sponges, amber, mother-of-pearl, and other material of this kind are not classified under mines and are governed by special rules.

Mining ownership.—The ownership of mines belongs to the States, their administration belongs to the Federal Executive, and their exploitation to those who hold concessions in due form. Owners of the soil must hold a concession to be entitled to exploit any mine within their landed property. The soil extends from the surface 3 meters downward; the subsoil from 3 meters below the surface to an indefinite depth. The title of ownership is granted by the President of the Republic.

Mining concessions.—Concessions are granted by the Federal Executive. Concessions for vein mines are perpetual; for alluvion gold for at least fifty years. Both are considered real estate. Concessions shall not exceed 900 hectares for mineral coal and 300 hectares for veined mines. Concessionaires shall always be considered as Venezuelans and can not allege rights as foreigners in matters connected herewith.

Debarred as concessionaires.—The following are henceforward debarred from acquiring or holding any participation in mining enterprises: Mining engineers and all employés of the Department of Mines within the jurisdiction of their department; presidents of States, governors of Territories or of the Federal District, and revenue officers within their respective jurisdictions. Judges in charge of mining matters are also debarred.

Mining taxes.—Alluvion gold, on river beds or in public lands, not worked by machinery, is free from taxation. Vein minerals pay 2

bolivars a year per hectare and 3 per cent on the gross yield of the mine. Alluvion gold, not otherwise classified, pays 10 per cent on the gross production and 2 bolivars a year per hectare. The taxes are payable to the Federal Executive, who may exempt, from time to time, such machinery and utensils from customs duties when in his judgment it may tend to the development of the mining industry in Venezuela.

MINING CODE.

[Full text of law.]

TITLE I.—*Classification.*

ARTICLE 1. A mine is every accumulation of inorganic metalliferous substances and fossils [combustibles] which are found in the interior or on the surface of the earth, whether in veins, layers, or deposited in any other form, and of precious stones which are capable of being exploited and of being used in jewelry. Deposits of asphalt, tar, pitch, petroleum, and other like substances, as kaoline clay, phosphates, saltpeter, colombine, guano, and every other substance used for fertilizing, whether mineral or not, shall likewise be considered mines.

Sole paragraph: Pearls, coral, sponges, amber, mother-of-pearl, and other like materials, whether found in placers or disseminated on the coast, shall not be considered mines, and their exploitation shall be governed by special regulations of the Federal Executive, or of the respective States, according as these substances are found within the national jurisdiction or that of the State.

ART. 2. Building and ornamental stone, sand, slate, clay, lime, puzolana, peat, earthy and stony substances of all sorts belong to the owner of the soil, whether a private individual, the nation, or the States, and anyone may exploit them, provided he has obtained the permission of the owner.

ART. 3. As the exploitation of the mines situated within the territory of Venezuela is a matter of public utility, their exploration and exploitation shall be governed by the provisions of the present code and the general laws.

ART. 4. The ownership of mines belongs to the States, their administration to the Federal Executive, and their exploitation to those who have obtained or may obtain a concession in conformity with the provisions of this code.

TITLE II.—*Of mining property.*

ART. 5. Mines can not be exploited, even by the owner of the soil, without obtaining a concession from the Federal Executive.

Sole paragraph: From the promulgation of the present code, the exploitation of mines, whether of asphalt, bitumen, bituminous pitch,

or other like substances, shall be carried on in the manner the Federal Executive shall deem expedient.

ART. 6. Exploitation shall be carried on within the concessions granted by the Federal Executive, and these shall not exceed 900 hectares for mines of mineral coal, nor 300 hectares for veined mines. Concessions for mines of alluvion gold, in whatever kind of deposit or place it may be found, shall be granted by square plots, the side of which may extend from ten meters to five kilometers long, the later in case they are to be worked with hydraulic motors or other mechanical appliances.

ART. 7. Concessions for veined mines are declared perpetual and to be real estate. Mining concessions for alluvion gold shall be granted for a minimum term of fifty years, and are likewise declared real estate.

ART. 8. In every zone or circumscription there is soil and subsoil. The former begins at the surface and extends in a vertical line three meters below the surface, and the second begins at a depth of three meters and extends to an indefinite depth.

ART. 9. When a concession has been granted it constitutes of itself real estate, and as such may be acquired, alienated, mortgaged, and encumbered, in accordance with the provisions of the civil code.

Sole paragraph.—The buildings, machinery, apparatus, and all work executed and installed for the improvement and development of every kind of mine while they are in the service of the concession, shall also be considered real estate.

ART. 10. The right of every concessionary ends at the limits of his concession; nevertheless if anyone while working his vein or deposit, whether it consist of lodes or alluvion placers, should touch on lands which have not been granted, or are comprised within a lapsed concession, he shall have the preferent right to ask for another concession of the adjacent land.

Sole paragraph.—If an individual or company, in the course of exploitation, should touch upon an alien concession he shall suspend his operations immediately on observing the fact, or on his being brought to account by the owner, and he must divide in half the net value of the ore which he may have extracted in good faith; but if he should maliciously trespass upon alien property, he shall not have any right to the ore extracted and he shall pay double the value of the said ore to the owner of the concession who must prove the bad faith in a contested suit.

ART. 11. All minerals found within the limits of concessions of veined mines, with the exception of those substances referred to in the sole paragraph to article 5, belong to the concessionary, who may freely exploit the same without the necessity of a new concession. In mining concessions of alluvion corrido gold, the concessionaries shall

have the preference, during thirty days for denouncing and acquiring, according to the provisions of this code, all the lodes or veins which are found in the said concessions.

ART. 12. When *alfaretas* or *alfarjetas*—that is to say, interjacent spaces—not granted are found between two or more properties, they shall be granted to that owner of an abutting concession who first requests it; and on their renouncing to any private individual who asks for it.

ART. 13. The title of ownership or concession shall be granted by the President of the Republic, stamped with the seal of the Federal Executive and countersigned by the minister of Fomento, in the following form: "Whereas citizen [or citizens].....[company] or [firm] has asked to adjudicate to him [or them] a mining property of [such a class] of [such extent] situated in [such a municipality of such a district] of the State, Territory, or Federal district, the boundaries of which according to the respective plan, made by engineer or land surveyor [Mr. So-and-so], are as follows.....and whereas all the requirements of the code of mines now in force have been fulfilled, the President of the Republic adjudicates to [so and so], his heirs and those claiming under him, the mining concession of [extent] situate in [municipality and district] of [State or Territory] or of the Federal district referred to in document No. The present title shall be recorded in the proper registry office of the place where the concession is situated, and gives the concessionary and his successors right for an indefinite time [if the concession is for a vein or lode mine], and for [so many years] [if the concession is for alluvion gold] to the use and enjoyment of the said mining property, provided he complies with the provisions determined by the code of mines."

ART. 14. A new concession of public lands shall include both the ownership of the surface and the mining property, and the concessionary shall be able to use freely, in improving and developing his concession, the woods, waters, and other materials which it contains for the work of the mines, with the single obligation of complying strictly with the provisions of this code.

ART. 15. If a concessionary has need of the surface of private property for working his mine, he shall come to an amicable understanding with the owner of the area; but if they can not agree, and the necessity is sufficiently proved, he shall proceed to expropriate and to call for the opinion of appraisers, in accordance with the provisions of the law, to value the part of the land which it is necessary to take and the loss and damage which may be occasioned to the owner.

If the surface is planted with regular crops or valuable woods, the mining concessionary may only hope to obtain that part which is strictly necessary for the installation of houses, buildings, machinery, the labors of the mines, roads, and other indispensable works.

ART. 16. In essentially mining districts the concessionaries and the inspectors of mines shall take care of the forests and prevent their destruction to the detriment of the mines.

ART. 17. The cut timber, slag, and tailings of lapsed mining concessions form an integral part of the mine to which they belong; but until they have passed into the possession of a private individual they shall be of common use.

TITLE III.—Of the requirements for the exploitation and acquisition of a mining concession.

ART. 18. All persons capable of acquiring property according to the law of Venezuela may obtain mining concessions, except those mentioned in the following article; but the concessionary, or company which may be organized for the purpose, shall always be considered Venezuelans, even when one or several of the members are foreigners, and they shall be subject to the jurisdiction of the tribunals of the Republic in all negotiations the subject or motive of which lies within the country; and they shall never allege, with respect to matters connected with mining concessions, any right as a foreigner, under any form whatever, and they shall only have the rights and the means of enforcing them which the laws of Venezuela grant to Venezuelans; and therefore foreign diplomatic agents shall not interfere in any way whatever in the said matters.

ART. 19. The following persons are debarred from acquiring mines or holding part or interest in them:

Mining engineers in the employ of the Department of Mines, and inspectors of mines, within the jurisdiction where they exercise said functions.

Presidents of States, governors of Territories and of the Federal district, and revenue officers of the respective mining jurisdictions.

Judges to whom the administration of justice in mining matters is submitted.

These prohibitions do not refer to mines acquired before the appointment to the said offices nor to those which said functionaries may acquire as heirs or legatees during the exercise of their offices.

ART. 20. Any person desiring to make explorations for the discovery and acquisition of mines shall proceed in conformity with the provisions of this code, under penalty of having his acts annulled besides the indemnities that may be demanded for loss or damage.

ART. 21. Explorations for the discovery of mines may be made openly and freely within open and uncultivated lands, whether they be private or Government property

Sole paragraph: No explorations shall be made within the courtyards, gardens, orchards, enclosed yards of houses or dwelling houses,

in towns or cultivated fields, except by their owners or other persons specially authorized by them.

ART. 22. In order to make explorations or investigations on lands of private persons which have been enclosed or marked out, other than those comprised in the foregoing article, it is necessary to have the permission of the owner of the soil, and if the property is joint property, of one of the owners. If the owner should refuse permission or should be absent and not have a representative within the jurisdiction, the party interested shall have recourse, for the purpose of soliciting the said permission, to the president of the State, the governor of the Territory or of the Federal District, through the first civil authority of the locality, who will not refuse it, provided the rules established by this article are complied with.

Sole paragraph: The person interested shall state in the application his given name, his surname, and the place of his domicile and that of the proprietor and the situation of the land where he is going to make the exploration, and shall add to the application a responsible bond for payment of the damages and loss which may be occasioned in the exploration or assay, according to the opinion of experts, if no agreement is arrived at between the interested parties.

ART. 23. In mining concessions, whether they are or are not in exploitation, no work can be executed for discovering mines except with the special permission of the cessionary.

Sole paragraph: The prohibition established in this article shall not include the right to the roads or rights of way which another mine or digging, whether in exploitation or not, may be entitled to establish or which exist in the concessions for facilitating the exploitation.

ART. 24. No work of exploration or other mining work shall be begun at a lesser distance than twenty meters from any building, railroad, place enclosed by walls, highway, canal, bridge, watering place for animals, or other public or private easement, nor at less than four hundred meters from fortified points, without the special permission of the proper authority or of the owner.

ART. 25. Without regard to villages formed near mines in exploitation, the chief civil authority of the locality shall grant the necessary permissions to execute the works referred to in the preceding article, provided no serious injury is caused to the village.

ART. 26. Any person who wishes to carry on the work of exploration to the exclusion of every body else on any given lands shall solicit permission in accordance with article 20, and this shall not be granted except for an extent of land of three hundred hectares, more or less, and for a specified time, which shall not exceed four months, at the end of which the said permission shall be declared lapsed.

When the permit applied for be for public lands it shall be requested from the Federal Executive, and the permit shall state the boundaries

of the lands and the term granted for the exploration, to the exclusion of any other person or company.

ART. 27. When the exploration has been finished, if the interested party has discovered any one of the minerals which have been declared in this code to constitute mines, he shall take two samples from the vein, layer, or bed, which shall not weigh less than four ounces each, and if the ore is of alluvion gold, from any kind of deposit, ten grains, and shall deliver them in presence of two witnesses to the principal civil authority of the municipality or parish of the jurisdiction in which the mine is situated.

When the samples have been delivered he shall thereupon state before the two witnesses the class of ore and deposit which he believes he has discovered, and that the samples have been taken from the site of the discovery, which must be determined by its boundaries and its approximate area, mentioning, furthermore, the nearest known points of reference and the names of the adjoining holders, if there are any. The declaration referred to in this article must be made by the interested party or his representative, on paper bearing a seal of the class on which applications and petitions should be made, according to the respective law of the State.

ART. 28. The chief officer of the municipality or parish shall thereupon—without excuse or pretext being admitted, under penalty of being dismissed from his employment, of suffering the imposition of a fine of from one thousand to four thousand bolivars, and the payment of the loss and damage which may be caused to the interested party, except in the event of superior force or accident duly proved, and in that case the commissary-general of the place, who, if necessary, shall appoint a secretary for the occasion—record in the proper book in the presence of the interested party and the two witnesses a minute as in the Form No. 1.

Notices shall immediately thereafter be posted in the most public places of the municipality or parish, by order of the civil chief, to the effect shown by Form No. 2.

ART. 29. The local authority shall record the minute referred to in the preceding article in the book set apart for that purpose, and shall deliver an original copy of it to the interested party, signed by the said authority and his secretary, the witnesses, and the interested party, and shall transmit a certified copy of the minute to the chief officer of the respective superior district of the municipality or parish and to the president of the State or the governor of the Territory or of the Federal District, enclosing one of the samples which the interested party or discoverer had delivered. They shall be remitted by post in a registered envelope, or by special messenger if the interested party pays the expenses incurred. This special messenger shall return with the receipts, and he shall deliver them to the proper person.

ART. 30. As soon as the civil chief of the district to whose jurisdiction the municipality or parish belongs in which the discovery and denunciation of the mine has been made, receives the copy of the respective minute, he shall post in his office and in the most public places of the town, during the term of forty days, bulletins similar to those provided in the preceding article; and he shall publish the said minute in the official newspapers of the district, if there are any, or in those of the nearest place, or in the newspaper of largest circulation of the locality or of the nearest locality, four times at the least within the term of thirty days from the date of the denunciation; and he shall add to the record a copy of each publication. Without loss of time the chief of the district shall in turn transmit to the president of the State or the governor of the Territory or of the Federal District, under registered cover, an exact copy of the denunciation proceedings.

ART. 31. The chief officer of the District, like the president of the State, or the governor of the Territory or of the Federal District, shall cause the said minute to be copied in the register of mines and shall acknowledge receipt with the least possible delay, under certified cover, to the authority who has transmitted it, and shall advise the interested party.

ART. 32. At the expiration of the forty days, as established by article 30, and within the next fifteen days, the denouncer shall address a requisition to the president of the State, or the governor of the Territory or of the Federal District, asking that provisional possession of the mine be given to him.

Sole paragraph.—The foregoing requisition shall contain the name, surname, and place of domicile of the petitioner, the character in which it is presented, the date of the denunciation before the civil chief of the municipality or parish, the class of mine which is asked for and its name, the boundaries of the land where it is situated, the number of hectares or the length of the sides of the square which is desired, and all the other facts and particulars which should be necessary to clearly define the concession that is being requested.

ART. 33. On the president of the State, or the governor of the Territory or of the Federal District, receiving the petition referred to in the preceding article, he shall acknowledge receipt to the interested party; and if it appear that the requisites established by the present law have been complied with and that the lapse of forty days has expired, which is referred to in article 30, and that there has been no justifiable opposition, he shall order the civil chief of the District where the mine is situated to proceed within the term of eight days to put the interested party in provisional possession of it.

ART. 34. The chief officer of the District on receiving the order from the president of the State, or the governor of the Territory, or of the

Federal District, shall fix, allowing three days to intervene, the day and hour at which the civil chief of the municipality or parish and other persons who should be present at the giving of possession, should repair to the spot where the mine is situated, and with the least possible delay shall communicate it to the chief of the municipality or parish, and through him to the curator of mines, if there is one, to the interested party, to two experts appointed by the same chief officer of the District, and to the contiguous holders, and he shall decree at this very act and at the same time order the delivery of possession of the said mining concession to the interested party or his representative. (Circular form number 3.)

The contiguous holders shall be notified by summons in which mention shall be made of the number of hectares, the boundaries, the name of the denouncer, and the day and hour fixed. The contiguous holders shall sign at the foot of the summons, or shall cause their signatures to be affixed if they can not write, and the summons shall be added to the record of the case. If the contiguous holders refuse to sign the summons and do not attend, and do not cause themselves to be represented in spite of the publications made in the official or other newspapers, on those circumstances being proved by trustworthy witnesses, they shall not allege any right with respect to the taking of possession, at which they will be considered as having been present.

Sole paragraph.—The chiefs of districts are authorized to appoint, incidentally, the curator of mines, in case the Federal Executive shall not have appointed a curator of mines for the locality.

ART. 35. The chief officer of the municipality or parish shall be under the obligation to cause the execution of the said summons mentioned in the preceding article, so that the persons summoned may attend on the day fixed, at the place of the discovery of the mine.

If, through negligence or malice, the chief officer of the locality or parish should fail to comply with the provisions of this article, he shall be fined one thousand bolivars and be suspended from his office by the civil chief of the District.

ART. 36. If the chief officer of the municipality or parish or the curator of mines should meet any justifiable legal impediment which should hinder the execution of the order of the chief officer of the District for giving possession of the denounced mine, he must duly communicate it to the chief officer of the District in order that the latter should appoint substitutes who shall perform the functions at that act.

Sole paragraph.—The said functionaries are responsible for any damage suffered by the interested party in consequence of delay in the due fulfillment of the provisions of this law in the acquirement of the right of possession of a mine.

ART. 37. The chief officers of districts are authorized, in cases of



PORT OF GUANTA.

(Photograph by V. Amato, Barcelona, Venezuela.)

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excuse through physical impediments or other legal causes, to appoint as temporary substitutes persons to assist at the taking of provisional possession of a mine, in the cases in which all the legal formalities have been observed. He may also appoint a secretary ad interim in case the holder of that office can not attend on that occasion.

ART. 38. The chief officer of the respective municipality or parish, the curator of mines, the interested party, the two experts named, and the contiguous holders, if there are any, being assembled and installed on the site where the discovery was made, shall proceed to the giving of possession in the following manner: The chief officer of the municipality or parish, accompanied by the two experts, shall mark out the boundaries and shall determine the number of hectares or the length of each side of the square which the interested party has asked for, in order to file his mining concession; at each angle he shall cause a wooden post to be set up, as established in the respective article of this code, and shall designate the land of the concession in one lot, where the interested party should prefer it. Before executing this work, the mining experts shall accompany the interested party and they shall cause samples to be taken from the vein, placer, bed, or deposit at the place where the interested party took those presented, in order that it should be made to appear, in the minute hereinafter mentioned, whether from the examination and comparison which have been made of them it is clearly proved that minerals similar or identical to those delivered by the interested party are found there, and whether, therefore, the latter have been taken from that place; they shall also set out in the said minute whether the approximate number of hectares or the length of each side of the square which was asked for is well determined, and whether the posts mentioned in this law are well fixed. This done, the chief officer of the municipality or parish shall proceed without further delay to draw up the minute of possession and to comply with the provisions of this law, forming a record of the acts of proceedings which record shall be written on sealed paper of said State of the corresponding class. (Form for the act of possession No. 4.)

ART. 39. The chief officer of the municipality or parish, on possession having been given, shall immediately transmit, under registered cover, through the post-office, or by express, at the cost of the interested party if he should consent, a certified copy of the minute of possession to the chief officer of the district and to the president of the State, or the governor of the Territory, or of the Federal district, who shall immediately acknowledge receipt, and both the chief officer of the municipality or parish and the other said authorities shall each on his own account cause to be entered in the proper book for registry of mines the minute of this possession in the following terms:

I hereby declare that I have this — day of — received from

the chief officer of the municipality or parish (names) a certified copy by which provisional possession was given to the person or company — of a mine (name), which is of *such* a mineral and which is situated in the municipality or parish — at the place called — with the following boundaries —; that the concessionary chose *so many* hectares, or a square with *so many* meters on each side, and the president of the State, the governor of the Territory or of the Federal district, or the chief officer of the district, signs.

ART. 40. The president of the State, the governor of the territory, or of the Federal district in view of the record which he shall receive of the minute of possession, mentioned in the foregoing article, and finding that the proceedings have been carried out in conformity with the provisions of this code, shall deliver to the interested party, within the following 30 days after having been given provisional possession, a provisional title of the concession for one year, which shall be engrossed on sealed paper of the highest value used in the respective State, district, or Federal Territory, and it shall give the concessionary the right to explore the mine as he should think proper; to cause a topographical plan to be drawn up corresponding to a scale of one millimeter of $2\frac{1}{2}$ meters (1:2500) of the mining concession in conformity with the provisions of this law. The plan of the concession, whose circumference shall be determined by lines and right angles, shall set out its situation, boundaries, extent, and nature of the land, and the situation, direction, and nature of the vein, bed or layer of the ore, and the engineer or land surveyor who makes the plan shall certify the existence of the mineral deposit and shall specify the spot where it exists. And for this purpose, the concession having been measured and the plan verified by the curator of mines and by an engineer or land surveyor, the interested party shall transmit the provisional title, the plan of the concession in triplicate, and a copy of the respective record to the Fomento department in order to obtain from the President of the Republic the definite title deed of the mining concession with all the rights and prerogatives which the present law grants him. The said title shall be issued within the term of thirty days if the record, the plan, and the provisional title have been made in conformity with the provisions of the present code. If any error should be observed it shall be duly noted and the record and plan returned to the interested party in order that he should have it rectified within the term of sixty days. If the interested party should rectify the said errors the definite title shall be granted within fifteen days after having filed the new application.

ART. 41. The president of the State, the governor of the Territory or of the Federal district, shall grant the provisional title mentioned in the preceding article in the following terms (Form No. 5).

ART. 42. The president of the State or the governor of the Territory

or of the Federal district, respectively, shall immediately after issuing a provisional title transmit a certified copy of it to the Fomento department.

ART. 43. The formalities for giving possession of mines shall be effected at the cost of the interested party, who must furnish the chief officer of the municipality or parish, his secretary, the curator of mines, and the two experts who have to intervene in the matter with the sustenance and mounts necessary to take them to the site of the mine.

They must also pay by way of fees to each of the said four functionaries, the civil chief, the secretary, and the two experts, 20 bolivars for the formalities of giving possession of said concession.

In the said formalities shall be considered as included the approximate boundaries established in each concession, but if the said formalities should be annulled through any omission imputable to the functionaries or the experts who should assist therein, they shall repeat the said formalities without cost, and if it is impossible to repeat them, they shall return to the interested party the fees they had received except in case of superior force, which fact shall be legally proved.

All the steps and formalities for the acquisition of mines, with the exception of the provisional title, shall be engrossed on sealed paper of the lowest class established by the respective law of the State; and the legal corresponding stamps shall also be obliterated thereon.

Sole paragraph: One and the same person may obtain several concessions.

FORM NO. 1.

Municipality or parish (name) of the district (name) of the State or Territory (name) or of the Federal district.

I, N. N., the principal civil authority of this locality, make known that this — day of —, at (hour) citizen X. X. (or citizens or company), adult, of (name of domicile) and accompanied by the witness N. N. and N. N., residents of this municipality or parish, who certify and declare that citizen (the petitioner or his representative or constituent) with (or without) permission for his exploration, discovered a mine, in accordance with law, of which he delivers and deposits in this department under numbers — the respective samples of the vein or lode, or of alluvion gold, which seem to contain *such* a mineral; that these samples were taken from *such* a place, within the jurisdiction of this municipality or parish, bounded as follows — and it contains *so many* hectares (if it is a vein or lode) or a square of *so many* meters to the side (if it is alluvion gold) more or less, which he elects, and, therefore, the legal denunciation of the land for the provisional title of the said mine, to which the discoverer gives the name *such* and

the provisions prescribed by the Code on the matter are hereby complied with for all legal purposes, and they sign.

The local authority: _____.

The interested party: _____.

Witness: _____.

Witness: _____.

The Secretary: _____.

NOTE.—If the denouncer should not know how to write, some one shall sign at his request.

FORM No. 2.

This — day of — at (hour) appeared before me citizen N. N., accompanied by the witnesses N. N. and N. N., denouncing the discovery of a free mine, of such a mineral at such a site, with the following limits:

For the corresponding effects this notice is posted for the space of forty days.

The civil chief: _____.

The secretary: _____.

FORM No. 3.

[Circular.]

I, X. X., chief officer of the district, — in execution of superior orders, and after full compliance with the provisions of the Code of Mines for the denunciation and delivery of provisional possession of the mine [name] denounced by citizen N. N. [or his legal representative], direct you to repair, together with your secretary, citizen N. N., curator of mines, and citizens [A and B] whom I have named experts, to the place where the mine is situated, after the due summons of the contiguous owners, if there are any, within the peremptory term of eight days, from the date on which you receive this despatch; and for that purpose I direct you to provide everything necessary to assist the persons named, and to comply with all the provisions of the law for this giving of possession, holding you responsible for failure to comply with what has been ordered.

[Date.]

The civil chief: _____.

FORM No. 4.

[For the provisional giving of possession.]

I, N. N., chief officer of the municipality or parish ———, accompanied by his secretary, by N. N., curator of mines, by the two citizens N. N., appointed experts for this purpose, and by citizen N. N., who has applied according to the formalities prescribed by the law, for the provisional possession of this mine [name] and with the assistance of the contiguous owners [if they are present, and if they are not the fact shall be stated] solemnly declare in the name of the law and by order of the president of the State, or the governor of the Territory, or of the Federal district, that all legal requisites having been complied with, I put citizen ——— [or company] in provisional possession, for the term of one year, of the mine which he has discovered and which is comprised within the boundaries ——— and that at every angle which marks the limits of the mining concession a wooden post has been fixed, in accordance with article 38 of the Code of Mines; that the interested party has chosen so many hectares of land, or a square of so many meters long on each side, more or less; that the samples which the interested party delivered on making the respective denunciation of this mine have been compared, and are of the same class and condition as those found on this site; and that, finally, there having been no legal opposition, citizen N. N. is declared to be in peaceable provisional possession of the said mine for all legal purposes.

Signed in triplicate.

[Date.]

The civil chief of the municipality or parish:

_____.

The secretary:

_____.

The interested party:

_____.

The curator of mines:

_____.

The experts and the contiguous owners, if there are any.

FORM No. 5.

I, N. N., president of the State, or the governor of such a Territory, or of the Federal district, make known:

That citizen N. N. has discovered a mine of such a mineral, an exploitable matter, according to the Code of Mines now in force, denounced under such a name, situated in such a jurisdiction of the municipality or parish [name], of the district [name]; and that having applied to this department and denounced his discovery, with all the circumstances which determine the same, and all legal requisites having been complied with, on view of the experts' report of the giving of provi-

sional possession referred to in Chap. III, article 38, of the Code of Mines now in force, I hereby grant a provisional title to the discoverer, N.N., which gives him a right to the said mine which is comprised within the following boundaries: ————.

The present title gives the discoverer the rights referred to in the Code of Mines now in force, for the term of one year, from the date on which he was given provisional possession of the concession in accordance with the law, and, furthermore, a perfect right to appear before the citizen President of the Republic, through the proper department, and in accordance with the provisions of this code, and with the plan of the said mining concession, made by engineers or land surveyors, and to solicit and receive the definitive title which gives him perfect possession of the said mining property in accordance with the provisions of the law.

Given at the palace of the government of the State or Territory [name] or of the Federal district at ———.

TITLE IV.—*Of opposition.*

ART. 44. It is understood by first denouncer of a mine, and the one who shall have indisputable right to obtain ownership of the same, the first person who makes the denunciation and delivers the samples mentioned in this code with the formalities prescribed therein, except in case of a contrary legal decision. In case of dispute at the moment of the denunciation the samples shall be compared and their identity proved by examining them with those of the place from where they may have been taken, in the same vein, bed, or deposit of alluvion gold, with respect to its quality and conditions, making assays and experiments with them.

ART. 45. Opposition may be made verbally on the discoverer appearing and making the denunciation, or in writing, on any day before that appointed for the giving of possession. In the first case, the authority before whom the denunciation is made shall make an entry in the register, which he shall keep for that purpose, and which the public functionary and the parties shall sign together.

ART. 46. The document having been filed or an entry of the opposition having been made, a lapse of fifteen days from the following day shall be allowed for the parties to show before the curator of mines or the functionary who occupies his place, who has the best right, and the issue must be decided on the last day.

The party who should not be satisfied with that decision may appeal within the term of five days to the technical inspector, who shall decide within the term of fifteen days after receiving the minutes; and if one of the parties should still remain dissatisfied, he may appeal as a last resort to the minister of fomento; but in no case shall the proceedings established by this code for the acquisition of mines be suspended, and,

finally, he who obtains the last favorable judgment, in case of appeal from the first, shall be the owner of the discovery.

If the opposition does not refer to the priority of discovery, but should be based on already acquired rights of another nature, the party who believes himself to have been injured by the decision in the said administrative proceedings may allege his rights in an ordinary suit before the courts.

ART. 47. Owners of contiguous mines may raise opposition at the time of the giving of provisional possession when the whole or part of their mines is included in the measurement; but in this case the suit to be brought is one of limits and shall be proved and decided according to the provisions of the civil procedure, and the giving of possession shall be suspended.

Sole paragraph. In the case to which this article refers the parties having been summoned to appear before the competent judge, the opposing party shall within eight days and with the least possible delay formulate his application for demarcation.

TITLE V.—*Of the definitive title.*

ART. 48. The minister of fomento, on view of the provisional title issued by the president of the State or the governor of the Territory or of the Federal District of the record and respective plans of the concession, and on finding that the provisions of the present code have been complied with, shall grant the definitive title on national stamped paper of one hundred bolivars, bearing revenue stamps for the value of forty bolivars.

This title shall bear the signature of the President of the Republic, shall be sealed with the seal of the Federal Executive, and countersigned by the minister of fomento, and shall be recorded in the corresponding registry.

ART. 49. The definitive title having been issued the minister of fomento shall order two certified copies thereof to be made, adding to each of them a copy of the respective plan of the concession, of which one shall remain in the archives of the department and the other shall be transmitted to the department of the technical inspector of mines of the Republic. The original title shall be delivered to the interested party, together with the third copy of the plan, which shall bear a certificate of the corresponding direction, in which it shall be stated that it was the one delivered when application was made for the definitive title.

ART. 50. All the expenses for sealed paper and stamps for obtaining the provisional and definitive titles, and the copies ordered to be made in the preceding article, shall be borne by the interested party.

ART. 51. The definitive title shall be registered at the registry office of the jurisdiction of the mining concession.

TITLE VI.—*Obligations of the grantees.*

ART. 52. All companies to be formed for the working of mines are civil firms and are subject to the civil jurisdiction of the Republic.

ART. 53. Limited companies, whether with unlimited liability or joint stock, or incorporated partnerships, which shall be formed for the purpose of exploiting a mining concession, shall be established in accordance with the provisions of the code of commerce, but shall not for this reason lose their civil character.

ART. 54. Natives domiciled abroad who wish to exploit the claims referred to in this law must, before beginning their work, legally appoint an agent or constituted attorney with all the necessary powers, who shall represent them and shall be responsible directly for the obligations they may contract with the country. The power of attorney of the agent shall always be registered at the office of the public registry, at the respective record of the tribunal of commerce, and be published in full in the official or any other newspaper within the jurisdiction of the tribunal of commerce to which the registry belongs.

ART. 55. The properties, rights, and shares which natives domiciled abroad have in the Republic shall be directly responsible for the operations and transactions which their agents in Venezuela should effect in the management of the same.

ART. 56. All persons who may have furnished funds for the exploration or discovery of mines, and also for the work, machinery, and construction of buildings, have a mortgage over the concession. In order that this mortgage should be effective the document should be registered in the registry office of the district, setting forth the exact amount of such advances and the purpose or object for which they were employed.

ART. 57. The concessionaries must establish on the land, at their expense, the boundaries of their concessions, within the six months following the issue of the provisional title.

The boundaries of the concessions must be marked at the angles with masonry posts or stakes of heart wood of sixty-five centimeters in circumference, at least, and each post must bear the initials of the grantee.

ART. 58. As soon as the posts or logs referred to in the preceding article have been set up the concessionaries shall give notice to the principal civil authority of the locality, or to the curator of mines in order that they may ascertain whether the provisions of the said article have been complied with, and transmit a report of the said inspection to the proper person.

ART. 59. On the owner of a concession observing that a post or stake is wanting he should immediately replace it, and every year he shall clear of weeds the land marks which form the circumference of the concession.

ART. 60. All concessionaries who fail to comply with the provisions of the preceding articles shall pay a fine of five hundred bolivars, which shall be collected by the proper receiving officer immediately after notice of the infraction is given by the curator of mines. The former, as well as the latter, shall duly advise the minister of fomento what has been effected in the matter.

ART. 61. Within the lapse of two years, to be counted from the day on which the definitive title is issued, the concessionary shall put the mine in exploitation, and shall prove that circumstance before the department of fomento, by means of a certificate to be issued by the curator of mines. If the two years shall have elapsed and the exploitation of the mine shall not have been begun, the concessionary shall pay to the National Government, by way of fine, the sum of five thousand bolivars, which shall give him the right to a prorogation of two years, which shall be counted from the expiration of the first two. Should this fine not be paid within the thirty days following the expiration of the first two years, the Federal Executive, through the department of fomento, shall declare the concession lapsed, and the resolution to be passed on the subject shall be published in the *Official Gazette*.

If, during the prorogation for two years, which the interested party may obtain by the payment of the fine, the mine shall not be put into exploitation, the Federal Executive shall declare the concession lapsed.

In order that a mine should be considered to be in exploitation, it is required that at least ten workmen should be employed daily in working it.

If the work of exploiting a mining concession should be suspended for the space of one consecutive year, or in lapses of more than one month, which together represent the term of a year, the concession shall likewise lapse, and this shall be declared in the manner provided in the first part of this article.

For the lapses referred to in this article, a term equal to that lost through superior force or accident duly proved, shall be allowed.

ART. 62. The lapse of the mining concession having been declared, in accordance with the provisions of the preceding article, the minister of fomento shall cause a marginal note to this effect to be made in the book in which the definitive titles are recorded, and, with the same object, he shall give notice thereof to the registrar in whose office the title is recorded. A like communication shall be made to the president of the State, or the governor of the Territory, or of the Federal District, within whose jurisdiction the mine is situated.

ART. 63. Besides the cases of lapse provided for in this section, all persons who have asked for a mining concession shall *ipso jure* lose the right to obtain the provisional or the definitive title, as the case may be:

1st. If the fifteen days mentioned in article 32 should expire and the discoverer of the mine or his concessionary fails to address to the president of the State, or the governor of the Territory, or of the Federal District an application for provisional possession.

2d. If thirty days should elapse after the giving of provisional possession and the interested party fails to ask for the provisional title pursuant to article 40.

3d. If the one year mentioned in article 40 should elapse and the interested party fail to apply to the department of fomento for the definitive title; and

4th. If the interested party should not within the lapse appointed by article 40 rectify the errors which the department may find in the record and the plan of the concession, and if he should not, in the said case obtain the definitive title within the term provided in the final part of the said article.

The loss of the rights, the subject-matter of this article, shall be effected without any special resolution of the department of fomento.

Sole paragraph: Any mining concessions which for the space of six months shall not have paid the taxes referred to in Title X of this code are hereby declared to be legally and effectively lapsed. The minister of fomento shall issue the proper declaration, which shall be published in the *Official Gazette*.

ART. 64. All lapsed concessions and rights lost pursuant to this title may be acquired anew by the original concessionary, provided the provisions of this code be complied with and the petitioner pays to the National Government the sum of five thousand bolivars. New concessionaries of lapsed concessions shall not sell to the original concessionary or to his heirs the lapsed concessions they may have obtained.

TITLE VII.—Of the manner of organizing the registers of mines and the public offices.

ART. 65. The chief officer of the municipality or parish shall keep a book to inscribe the denunciations made before him, pursuant to provisions of article 27.

This book shall be bound and so arranged that it shall not be easy either to add to it or remove from it one or more leaves, and it shall be paged, and every page shall be signed by the president of the State, or the governor of the Territory, or of the Federal District, who shall furthermore place on the first page of each book a note signed by them, stating the number of folios which it contains and that each has been signed by them.

ART. 66. The inscription mentioned in the preceding article shall be made in the following form:

The number which corresponds to the statement shall be placed first, commencing with one and continuing in an ascending order.

Then the date shall be written, setting out the hour, all in letters.

Then the corresponding statement shall be written, expressing the circumstances to which article 27 refers, according to the indications which the denouncer shall make.

No erasure, amendment, or interlineations shall be made. If any error should be committed it shall be corrected at the foot by means of a note in which the wrong word or phrase shall be expressed and the form in which it should be put.

Lastly, the note shall be signed by the chief officer of the municipality or parish, by the denouncer, the two witnesses, and the secretary. If the denouncer does not know how to sign, this shall be mentioned, stating that the note has been read by the person he may have chosen to sign at his request.

No witnesses shall be admitted who can not write.

ART. 67. Immediately on the making of the denunciation mentioned in article 27, the note referred to in the preceding article shall be made, and immediately the said note shall have been legally authorized, the original copy and the certified copies mentioned in article 29 shall be issued, delivering the original to the denouncer and transmitting a copy of the copies to the civil officer of the respective district, and another to the president of the State or the governor of the Territory or of the Federal District for all legal purposes.

ART. 68. The date of the respective entry in the book mentioned shall be considered as the date of the discovery of the mine, and shall serve as a point of departure for enforcing the rights which are acquired by virtue of such discovery, except in case of a contrary legal decision.

ART. 69. The entries made in the book mentioned in article 65 are presumed to be authentic, unless they contain alterations, interlineations, or erasures which alter the sense of the document such as it appears in the copy sent to the interested party.

But in any case proofs shall be admitted against this presumption, and also to justify the total or partial falsification of the record. But this shall not delay or disturb the course of the discovery and provisional possession of it, or of the denunciation, since in the end he shall be responsible for the costs, loss, and damage who was guilty of the error or obstacle which occasioned them.

TITLE VIII.—*Placers.*

ART. 70. By placers (barrancos) is understood a solid ten meters long by ten wide and of indefinite depth, for the exploitation of alluvion gold, in whatever kind of bed or deposit it may be.

ART. 71. In the prospecting of mines by the placer system of shafts for the exploitation of alluvion gold no work shall be undertaken in the direction of a discovered vein, whether in exploitation or not, nor

within the distance of one hundred meters on either side of it; that is to say, that the owner of the vein has the right to keep and retain as his property a belt of two hundred meters wide in the centre of which the vein is being worked.

ART. 72. The exploitation referred to in the preceding article has special reference to the washing of alluvion gold in troughs; and as in the course of this work loose stones, fragments of veins, and other exploitable ore, or such as can be broken up or crushed by means of a mortar or by hand are often encountered, the owner of the digging has the right to the enjoyment of all those classes of ore with the exception of well-defined veins, which can not be acquired except in pursuance of the proceedings established by this code.

ART. 73. The system of exploration and exploitation by placers may be employed by every person capable of contracting, and who is endeavoring to discover mines in the subsoil, without any other restrictions than those established by the present code.

ART. 74. No work by the placer system shall be undertaken in towns or public roads, nor in buildings, aqueducts, tanks, plantations, and gardens, whether they be public or private property, it being understood that this prohibition is limited to a space of one hundred meters from the above specified places.

ART. 75. When a deposit of alluvion gold is discovered, the curator of mines, accompanied by the principal civil authority of the place, shall go to the site of the discovery, and after an ocular inspection, in conformity with the provisions of the preceding article, he shall settle the order of the work, so that the miners should not infringe on each others rights, and for this purpose he shall make the proper demarcations by means of wooden posts, which shall enclose a superficial area of one hundred square meters for each placer that is to be worked.

One and the same individual may have various placers.

Article 12 of this code is applicable to exploitation by the placer system.

ART. 76. In all work in connection with veins executed for the purpose of making explorations, of whatever kind it may be, with the exception of placers in veined mines, on lands of the nation or commons and on private lands, or on mining claims, the explorers shall be obliged to properly close the excavations which they may make, before abandoning them, and may be compelled thereto by the proper authority of the jurisdiction, and are liable to be fined and arrested according to the nature of the case.

TITLE IX.—*Water for mines.*

ART. 77. Whoever makes a denunciation as mentioned in Title III, article 27, acquires the right to take the water necessary for the work of the mine, provided the discovery is on public or national lands, according to the provisions established in the present title.

In concessions of alluvion gold is always included the use of the water, without detriment to the lawfully acquired rights of third parties.

ART. 78. The denouncer of the first mine which is found at any spot whatsoever has a preferent right to that of all subsequent discoverers to take the water necessary in the judgment of experts for his establishment and for the persons employed thereon; and that right may be enforced at any time, and although the mine should not have been worked, provided in the latter case the concession should not have been declared lapsed; and although it should be necessary for the enforcement of such right to suspend work at a plant established at a subsequently discovered mine.

ART. 79. Other discoverers shall have an equal but subordinate right to that of prior discoverers, and preferent to that of subsequent ones, observing a strict right of priority. This right shall always be acquired on the making of the denunciation.

ART. 80. Every denouncer of a mine has furthermore the right to practically utilize such waters as he wishes, provided he does not affect the right granted by the preceding article to those who may have denounced mines before the utilization of the waters, and provided he needs them for the work of the mines. In the latter case those who denounce mines, after the partial utilization of such waters, have no right to take them, except in case there is an excess in the existing deposits and currents.

ART. 81. On exercising the rights mentioned in the preceding articles, owners of mines shall never deprive the owners of the superficial soil, whom they may have found there at the time of the denunciation or denunciations, of the water necessary for their families, animals, and any kind of machinery whatsoever which they have already mounted or have begun to mount, and for the irrigation of their crops; and those who should become subsequent owners of the surface shall have the right only to the excess of the water for the said uses. Nor may they hinder the free uses of the easements of aqueducts, which are established on lands where the mine is situated, in favor of a town, village, hamlet, or factory of a third party.

ART. 82. If any dispute should arise between the owners of mines, some pretending that there is an excess of water in any deposit or current whatsoever and others affirming the contrary, the doubt shall be resolved by means of three experts to be appointed, one by each of the interested parties and the other by the civil chief officer of the district.

ART. 83. When it is necessary to decide whether there is sufficient water in excess in any deposit or current for the use of an individual, the excess shall be reckoned to be what remains after making allowance for that belonging to the owners of the mines previously denounced.

ART. 84. The right which is granted by articles 81 and 82 regarding the excess of water can not be in any way hindered by the prior miners and persons occupied in previous industry, except for the purpose of extending their original establishments within the area of their concession or mining property.

ART. 85. All differences which arise as to the waters between miners and landowners, or persons who are entitled to the enjoyment of an easement over an aqueduct, shall be settled in the form provided by this law.

ART. 86. If a mine should be denounced which can not be worked in any other way than with the water which is used to work another mine, the new denouncer shall have a right to take the said water, provided he complies with the following requisites:

1. That he conduct to the former mine other and sufficient water to work it.

2. That he indemnify the owner of the prior mine for all damage which may be caused to him through the alteration of the course of the water, either by reason of the greater supply he must reserve, or through the quality of the ground through which it flows, or, finally, through any other circumstances.

ART. 87. If the owner of an establishment on a higher land level should suspend the work at his mines, retaining his property in them, the miners of the subsequent establishments may use the water which the former may have brought, on purchasing from him the right to use the same, the value to be settled by experts, and he must preserve the supply, at his cost, in good condition, without acquiring therefor in any case any right of property thereon.

In this case the owner of the upper mine also has the right to be indemnified by the owner of the lower mine for any damage which he may suffer through the use of the drain, and to be secured that indemnization beforehand by judgment of the civil chief officer of the place where the mine is situated.

ART. 88. The right to the waters is transferred and is lost with that to the mines, and, like them, again becomes common property or passes to him who acquires the ownership of the mines, although this circumstance may not be expressed in the contracts, unless the owner of a mine needs them for another of which he is the owner and from which, at the time when the sale was effected, he especially excepted the water.

ART. 89. In case an owner of mines alters the course of the water which he has applied to his establishment for some other taken from a different deposit, the first becomes through that very act restored to its original character as common property and thereafter subject to the provisions of this title.

ART. 90. In case a mining concession should lapse in accordance with this law, any proprietor of mines may take the water which supplied the lapsed mine for any other enterprise, provided he needs it, and a new denunciation of the said mine shall not revive the right to the water which supplied it, unless it is out of use at the time of the said denunciation.

ART. 91. Those who acquire mines on a higher level than plants already mounted may make free use of the water which supplies the latter; provided they return to the common bed above the point at which the owners of lower plants take them for their service, and provided the use which the owners of upper establishments make of these waters does not render it useless for lower enterprises.

ART. 92. The manager of mines situated upstream who has acquired his property subsequently to the owners of mines situated lower down, and who, for the purpose of working his mines, has taken water which flows to those lower down, after passing through the plant, thereby causing damage to the owner of such lower mines, may be obliged by the latter to conduct the water by a special course until it empties below the point where it may cause damage.

ART. 93. If it is impossible to comply with the provisions of the foregoing article the contractor of superficial mines shall indemnify those of interior mines for the losses they may sustain, the indemnity being estimated, when necessary, by three experts appointed one by each of the interested parties and the other by the chief civil officer.

ART. 94. In regard to the easings and indemnities to which the waters employed in mines may give rise the provisions of this law shall be observed.

TITLE X.—*Taxes and privileges.*

ART. 95. Alluvion gold of any class of deposit that may be found in the beds of rivers and public lands can be worked freely when a concession has not been granted for it by the Federal Executive. Meanwhile the exploitation is effected by means of troughs, this system is declared free of all taxes.

ART. 96. Any mining concession for veins or lode of any kind whatever shall pay as mining tax 2 bolivars a year per hectar whether the surface belongs to the nation or to private persons, and if being worked it shall pay besides three per cent on the gross product of the mine.

Alluvion gold mining concessions of any kind or deposit that may be found shall pay ten per cent on the gross product of their exploitation and besides a mining tax of 2 bolivars a year per hectar, whether the surface belongs to the nation or to private persons.

ART. 97. The taxes to which the foregoing article refer must be

paid monthly and in cash at the nearest custom-house of the mining district in which the mine may be situated, or in any national receiving office when so directed by the Federal Executive. If the concession is situated in the Federal district the taxes shall be paid to the national treasury. The office in which the payment is made shall give a receipt in duplicate and the interested party shall remit to the fomento department one of those receipts in proof that the tax has been paid. If the interested parties do not remit the mentioned duplicate to said department the latter shall not consider the payments made.

The curators of mines are those who represent them and, in their default, the first civil authority of the locality shall enforce said taxes.

ART. 98. The Federal Executive, taking into consideration the protection to be given to mining enterprise for the development of the industry in the country, may exonerate from paying import duties, when it shall deem it advisable, on machinery, apparatus, and utensils that may be needed for the development of said enterprises as well as all explosives and accessories. The latter are subject to the provisions and laws in force on the subject, and the owners of mines must construct powder magazines at a depth of ten meters at least, the roofs of which must be one meter below the surface, and must be established at least five hundred meters from villages or mining centers in order to avoid danger. The Federal Executive may also exempt from the payment of duty octagonal steel for drilling.

ART. 99. The mining concession, its surface, buildings, machinery, and other dependencies and annexes shall serve as a guarantee in the first term for the compliance of the payment of the taxes established in this law, and for the payment of import duties that may be incurred in the importations freed in conformity with the foregoing article, when they have not been applied to the exploitation of mines or when the mines have not been worked within the terms provided by the law.

TITLE XI.—*Terms and conditions for the working of mines.*

ART. 100. Every one of the States composing the Union, every Federal territory, and also the Federal district form a mining circumscription, subdivided into so many mining districts as there may be in the State, Territory, or Federal district.

ART. 101. The owners or managers of mines are obliged to maintain good ventilation in the works that are effected, so that miners may not be asphyxiated by the agglomeration or retention of gases or miasms, or by infiltrations or accumulations of water.

ART. 102. Concessionaries are obliged to prop the ceilings and walls or sides of the galleries and passages by means of scaffolds or walls when so required by the softness of the rock or the nature of the deposit.

ART. 103. If through neglect of the owner of a mining exploitation



BOLÍVAR SQUARE, VALENCIA.
(Courtesy of the Venezuelan Government.)

to keep the drainage in good order any mine belonging to some one else suffers damage, he shall be obliged to repair it according to the estimate that may be made of it by the experts appointed, one by each of the parties and one by the civil chief of the locality.

ART. 104. The ladders used in the mines, shafts, or plazas for transit shall be such as to insure the safety of the laborers.

ART. 105. If the laborers have to be lowered into the mines by means of carts, cages, or tubs, the contractor shall employ cables of the first quality and use apparatus adequate to avoid accident.

ART. 106. If in consequence of an accident in a mine death or injury of one or more persons has been caused, indemnity shall be paid to the interested parties, and in case the parties do not come to an agreement in regard to the amount, it shall be fixed by three experts appointed in the same manner as provided in article 103.

ART. 107. Mining companies are obliged to keep their books in Spanish, according to the formalities established in the Code of Commerce.

TITLE XII.—*Functionaries.*

ART. 108. There shall be in the capital of the Republic a technical inspector of mines, who shall establish at the Federal Government's expense an office in due form containing the photographic plan, subterranean or mining plans, and the geological plans of the circumscriptions or districts; a collection of all the minerals explored or worked, as well as the apparatus and reactives to assay minerals; he shall visit the demarcations of the mining districts, as they are being established, under obligation of making the geological and mineralogical chart of each one of them, with all the notes he may consider useful after due study of the matter.

Whenever the Federal Executive shall consider it convenient this employee shall visit the mines of the Republic that are being worked, and shall take a minute note of the methods employed for the subterranean work and of the assays of the different minerals, it being his duty to make a report corresponding to each conscription, its general state, the improvements that may be made, and the drawbacks that may be avoided in favor of the mining industry. While he is in the employ of the Government he can not be a contractor nor acquire any class or rights in the mines of the Republic of whatever nature they may be.

ART. 109. The technical inspector of mines shall have a special book, according to the provisions of this code, in which he shall keep a numbered record of all the mining concessions discovered, explored and worked; of lapsed concessions, with the names of their original owners and the present ones; the place in which they are situated and the other data relative to them. He shall likewise keep the certified

copies that may be sent to him of the title deeds issued and of the corresponding plans; he shall draw up the general plan of all the mining concessions granted in the Republic and the census of these properties.

ART. 110. The director or representative of a mine shall put at the disposal of the technical inspector the necessary means, when he shall so demand it, to inspect its works. The former shall likewise submit the plan, the roll of miners, and other information that may serve to form a complete knowledge of the exploitation.

They shall also place at the disposal of the official, which the Federal Executive or the curator of mines may designate, their account books to verify the accuracy of liquidations and monthly payments. If, after an examination of said books, it is proved that some enterprise is defrauding the public treasury, those indicted of fraud shall pay a fine ten times in excess of the fraud committed and shall likewise be placed at the disposal of the ordinary tribunals for the corresponding trial.

The director or representative of the mining exploitation shall lay monthly before the curator of mines, and the latter shall enforce this disposition, a report in detail expressing: The quantity of gold produced; number of tons of ore ground or worked; number of workmen employed and their nationality; number of tons of mineral coal consumed, or horsepower or hour of electric energy employed, and cost of light and dynamite. The curator of mines shall submit this report to the minister of fomento, after having verified it with the books of the enterprise, so that it may be filed by the technical inspector and serve as a basis for the statistical service of that branch of national wealth, and so that it may be used also as a voucher to verify the accounts rendered of the payment of the tax.

ART. 111. When, from the inspection of visit effected in a mine by the technical inspector, it shall appear that the lives of persons and security of the exploitations may be in danger for any reason, the said official shall direct the necessary measures to avoid the causes of danger. In case of claim three or more engineers shall be heard, who shall be appointed by the first civil authority of the locality at the cost of the interested party, said official being obliged, according to the opinion of the greatest number of engineers he may hear, to settle the claim with the least possible delay.

When the technical inspector of mines be proved to be wrong he shall be responsible for the damage he may have caused to the owner of the mine in regard to the measures he may have directed, but if from the report of the engineers it shall appear that there is imminent danger, a provisional cessation of the work will be ordered without regard to any claim.

ART. 112. For the management of mines there shall be a curator of mines in each circumscription and in case there should be none there shall be appointed, for the time being, by the first civil authority of the district, a competent expert in mines to enforce compliance of this law.

ART. 113. The technical inspector of mines and the curator of mines shall assist likewise in the demarcation of concessions of lots when there should be reason to doubt the accuracy of its boundries, and in all those acts and claims of the miners which may affect the ownership of the nation over the mines and its direct interest in their working.

ART. 114. To be a technical inspector of mines it is required to be a graduate engineer and a chemist. To be curator of mines it is required to be of age and to have practical knowledge, which shall be proved before the technical inspector of mines.

The appointments of technical inspector of mines and curator of mines are made by the executive power and through the minister of fomento. The technical inspector of mines is under the immediate orders of said departments. He shall reside in the capital of the Republic and shall draw the salary that may be assigned to him in the budget law, his transportation being paid by the federal executive.

ART. 115. The curator of mines shall be paid 300 bolivars a month and is privileged to demand the following fees:

To assist in the act of taking provisional possession of each mine, 100 bolivars; to take cognizance and pass sentence in a judgment of opposition, 150 bolivars; to verify on the ground the plan of each concession and sign three copies of it, 60 bolivars; to assist in the demarcation of the mine and in all those acts and claims of said concessions that may affect the rights of the nation as well as those of private parties, 100 bolivars; to certify that a mine is in exploitation, 100 bolivars; to intervene in the controversies that may arise between workmen and owners of mines and to guard the interests of both parties, 10 bolivars a day, while his intervention in the matter is required.

Besides, for every act in which the curator of mines has to intervene his board and transportation shall be given him.

ART. 116. In cases of difficulties with the workmen, the curator of mines shall inquire into the causes of them, and if he can not settle them amicably, shall limit his action to guarding the interest of both parties, and when it becomes necessary, for the maintenance of public order in the mine and its neighborhood, he shall request aid from the nearest civil authority which shall give it to him.

ART. 117. The Federal Executive shall establish in the capital of the Republic a mining school, in which all matters relating to the branch shall be taught, in order to turn out good mining engineers who shall give efficient aid to the development of this industry

TITLE XIII. - *The police of the mines.*

ART. 118. In the mining districts the police, depending upon the authorities of the State, Territory or Federal District, shall be required to give immediate aid to the technical inspector and curator of mines every time they desire it for the performance and fulfilment of their duties.

As a general rule mines must be exploited in conformity with the provisions of the industry, so that they may guarantee the life of the miners, adhering in each special case to the regulations that may be established by the superintendency, with due regard to the following:

(1) Every mine that is worked must have the necessary communication with the exterior for the ventilation and extraction of the ore as well as for easy access and exit for workmen.

(2) When the ingress and egress has to be effected through a vertical shaft, the latter must be divided into floors every five meters, which shall be put in communication by means of stairs, so that at the foot of each there is a platform to prevent a person from falling beyond one landing.

(3) When the work is being carried on in loose ground the stairs must be made secure with timber, and must be inspected from time to time and replaced when they are not sufficiently solid.

(4) Natural pillars which support a mine can not be removed unless they are replaced by artificial ones capable of substituting the natural ones.

In works of exploitation of mines the day of twenty-four hours shall be divided into three watches, thus: From 6 a. m. to 2 p. m., from 2 p. m. to 10 p. m., and from 10 p. m. to 6 a. m., employing in each of those watches a sufficient number of workmen, foremen, and directors, who must be men, and under no circumstances women or children less than fifteen years of age.

ART. 119. Miners are prohibited to place drills or explosives in rock, ore holes, or cavities which have been previously charged or exploded.

Miners are prohibited to work in galleries or levels, tunnels or excavations, on loose grounds and stoppings, and to clean their respective places by throwing the ore to a lower level without notifying those beneath them.

The ordinance signals in a mine to announce that a tub or car is to pass, bring up or lower ore, or to announce that it is ascending or lowering a person, or that any accident has happened in the mine, shall be signaled by a bell placed in the upper part of the shaft by means of a wire passing to the different platforms placed in the transit workings. These signals are: 1 bell denotes that the tub or car must stop, 2 bells mean that something is being lowered, 3 bells for ascending, 4 bells signify that the ascent or descent must be effected with

care, and five bells tell of a serious accident having occurred in the mine.

Any one who is not the owner, director, or workman, unless with a special permit, shall be absolutely prohibited from entering or descending to the galleries or excavations and other mining labors as well as to the mills and machinery of them.

The technical inspector of mines and the curator of mines of the respective circumscription of mines are excepted; they can enter whenever they deem it advisable.

ART. 120. The director of the mine has charge of its police, but his authority shall not extend beyond the boundary of the mining concession, and in order to act he shall ask aid from the Territorial authorities who shall give it to him in benefit of the service of the mines, and he may apply to the local authorities in any case in which the procedure is not within the limit of his authority.

Mines must aid in the ventilation of contiguous mines that may need it, and to allow the subterranean passage of the water when this is indispensable and for which indemnity for damage must be paid as may be fixed by experts.

The easements above referred to are understood to be established for underground work, but in regard to the superficial surface easements they shall be ruled by the provisions of this code.

TITLE XIV.—*General rules.*

ART. 121. No transfer of mining concessions shall be effected nor shall be valid without the previous consent of the Federal Executive, and under no circumstances can any transfer be made to foreign governments or states, nor can the latter be admitted as partners. Any stipulation of this kind is null and void and shall cause the immediate lapse of the concession.

ART. 122. The registers of districts where the concessions may be situated, immediately after recording their definite titles, shall send, officially, a certified copy of them to the minister of fomento and to the inspector of mines.

ART. 123. The minister of fomento, through the director of national wealth, shall establish a record in special books, in which shall be inscribed the name of the person who has acquired a concession; the district municipality or parish of the State, Territory, or the Federal District where it is situated; the date on which possession was given; the name that may have been given to the mine; the limits in which it is located, and the dimensions, number of hectares, and length on each side of the square for the effects of collecting the tax.

ART. 124. The minister of fomento, the technical inspector of mines, president of the State, governor of the Territory and governor of the Federal District, registrars and chief officers of districts, municipali-

ties, and parishes shall strictly fulfil all the obligations established by this law and shall see that the books of register, which must be kept, are in conformity with this code.

ART. 125. The record books kept by the chief officer of the municipality or parish shall be signed on every page by the chief officer of the district or by his secretary, and those kept by the chief officer of the district shall be signed by the president of the State, governor of the Territory, or the governor of the Federal District, and those kept by the technical inspector of mines by the minister of fomento. And every one of them must have at the beginning a note, signed by the proper person, in which the number of pages of the book is mentioned.

ART. 126. The superintendents or directors of mines shall establish the interior by laws to which enterprises must be submitted and which by laws shall determine the hours of work of miners and other employees, the salaries, the days of payment, and the price of articles of commodity when the owner of the mine provides them in person or through a third party.

Three of these regulations shall be posted in the most public places of the offices and one copy shall be sent to the curator of mines of the circumscription, one to the technical inspectorship of mines, and another to the fomento department.

Sole paragraph.—In every contract concluded by the Federal Executive with a private person or company articles 18 and 121 of the present code of mines shall be included.

TITLE XV.—*Transitory rules.*

ART. 127. All final titles of concessions of lode or vein mines and the contracts concluded with the Federal Executive for the exploitation of alluvion gold which are in force, issued in conformity with the provisions of the laws in force at the time of issue, are revalidated, adapted, and submitted to the provisions of this code from the date of its promulgation.

Owners of final titles of vein and those of contracts, concluded for the exploitation of alluvion gold to which this article refers to the effect of the latter part of article 109, must submit to the Fomento Department a topographical plan of their mining property, drawn up by a Venezuelan engineer or surveyor, and verified by the respective curator of mines, to the same scale and under the same conditions as those provided in article 40. Said map must be submitted within six months after the promulgation of this code under penalty of paying a fine of 5,000 bolivars, and in this case the Fomento Department shall direct the drawing up of the plan.

ART. 128. The owners of titles of mines issued according to the provisions of the laws in force when they were granted, who may not have paid the taxes and fines thereof or who may not have com-

menced to work their mine have no right to the privilege granted by the foregoing article and their titles are hereby declared lapsed as well as the contracts concluded with the Federal Executive for the exploitation for alluvion gold, the works of which have not been begun within the prescribed terms.

ART. 129. Lapsed concessions, in conformity to the laws with which they were granted, and which by reason of said lapsing have been denounced by a third party and granted to him in ownership, without opposition from their former possessor, belong to the new concessionary, who is the legal owner.

In regard to denounced concessions which have already a provisional title and which in consequence are liable to obtain a final title, the latter shall be issued to them according to the provisions of this code.

Sole paragraph. Denounced mines, the record of which has been completed, are declared valid and the parties interested are obliged to have the records established according to the provisions of this code.

ART. 130. To revalidate and adapt a title of ownership of a mining concession, the Minister of Fomento, as soon as it shall be laid before him, shall put at the foot of the mentioned title a note, as follows:

“Revised, ratified, and adapted (on such a date) to the legal effects of the Mining Code in force, and recorded in the corresponding register. The Minister of Fomento.”

This title shall be recorded in the respective office of the Fomento Department as well as in the inspectorship of mines and in the register of the locality where the concession is situated.

FINAL RULES.

ART. 131. A copy of the official edition of this code, signed by me, countersigned by the Minister of Fomento, and sealed with the seal of the Federal Executive, shall serve as original, and shall be deposited and kept in the archives of this Department.

ART. 132. This code shall commence to be in force on April 19, 1904, and from that date the mining code sanctioned on March 29, 1893, and all other regulations that have been issued on the subject shall be repealed.

ART. 133. Let the National Congress be informed in its next session by the Minister of Fomento.

Given, signed, sealed with the great seal of the Federal Executive, and countersigned by the Minister of Fomento, in the Federal Palace of Caracas, on January 23, 1904, 93d year of the Independence and 46th of the Federation.

CIPRIANO CASTRO.

Countersigned:
The Minister of Fomento.

R. GARBIRAS GUZMÁN.

The Congress of the United States of Venezuela *decrees*:

Sole Article. The titles and articles of the *Mining Code*, decreed by the Constitutional President of the Republic on January 23, 1904, are hereby approved. Therefore, this code shall begin to be in force on April 19, 1904, and from that date are repealed the Mining Code sanctioned on March 29, 1903, and all other regulations issued on the subject.

Given in the Legislative Palace, on March 24, 1904, 93d year of the Independence and 46th of the Federation. [L. s.]

President of the Senate, SANTIAGO BRICEÑO; President of the Chamber of Deputies, JOSÉ IGNACIO LARES; Secretary of the Senate, R. CASTILLO CHAPELLÍN; Secretary of the Chamber of Deputies, VICENTE PIMENTEL.

MINING CONCESSIONS AND CONTRACTS DECLARED FORFEITED IN 1904.

The Federal Executive of Venezuela by a resolution issued by the Department of Fomento of February 4, 1904, has declared the forfeiture of 293 mining concessions and 17 contracts which comprise a total area of 113,745 hectares, for lack of compliance with the provisions of articles 61, 62, 96, 97, and 100 of the mining code in force.

The Constitucional, a semiofficial organ of the Venezuelan Government, in its number of February 8, 1904, publishes said resolution and states that the measure tends to the reorganization of the Administration by the strict observance of the laws in force, because in very many instances mining taxes remained unpaid, stipulations of contracts and concessions lacked compliance and, in one word, one part of the bilateral mining concessions and contracts remained unfulfilled although the would-be concessionaires pretended to be left in undisturbed possession of rich mining regions without complying with their engagements. Many of the concessions declared forfeited represent fabulous sums in undeveloped natural resources which offer possibilities for profitable investment of capital and which have reverted to the ownership of the nation.

Hereunder is given an abstract of the resolution.

UNITED STATES OF VENEZUELA, DEPARTMENT OF FOMENTO, *Direction of Territorial Wealth, Agriculture and Stock Raising, Caracas, February 4, 1904.* (93d year of the Independence and 45th of the Federation.)

Resolved, For lack of compliance with the provisions of articles 61, 62, 96, 97, and 100 of the mining code in force, the Federal Executive declares, on this date, the forfeiture of two hundred ninety-three (293) mining concessions and seventeen (17) contracts which comprise a total area of one hundred & thirteen thousand seven hundred forty-five

(113,745) hectares, of which two are diamond concessions; two hundred twenty-three (223) vein gold; nine (9) gold and silver; one (1) alluvion gold; four (4) gold and copper; eight (8) copper; four (4) copper and other metals; one iron; one silver, lead, and zinc; one iron chromate; nineteen (19) coal; six (6) petroleum; two (2) asphalt; three (3) columbine guano, etc.; one phosphate of lime; one coalin and white feldspath; one nitrate, and one hydraulic lime; and the contracts two (2) vein gold; fourteen (14) alluvion gold; one coal; asphalt, petroleum, and other substances, the names and locations of which are the following:

(See report of Minister of Fomento to Congress, 1904, pp. 94 to 99, for names and locations.)

The names of one hundred thirty-four concessions have not been mentioned, because they are not given in the respective titles.

Therefore, the corresponding property deeds of the above-mentioned two hundred ninety-three concessions and seventeen contracts are null and void and revert to the full dominion of the nation from the date of this resolution to be administered in conformity with the mining code. Be it made known and published. For the Federal Executive: R. GARBIRAS-GUZMÁN, *Minister of Fomento*.

MINING TITLES GRANTED, 1903-4.

The President of Venezuela, in his message to Congress presented on February 20, 1904, states that during the year ending February 20, 1904, the Government granted 11 definitive mining titles—5 asphalt, 3 coal, and 3 copper—and 7 titles of land grants for cattle raising. (Message, p. 44.)

NUMBER OF CONCESSIONS AND CONTRACTS FORFEITED, 1903-4.

The message further states that the Government has declared forfeited 338 mining concessions and 17 mining contracts for lack of fulfillment of the legal provisions in force. (Message, p. 45.)

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CHAPTER VIII.

MANUFACTURING AND OTHER INDUSTRIES.

There are in Venezuela numerous industries producing many articles of food, clothing, and other necessities of civilized life, from the product of the grain mill to the manufacture of pianos and mirrors. Steam and electricity are generally employed as motive power.

PRINCIPAL MANUFACTURING CITIES.

The principal manufacturing cities are Caracas, Valencia, Maracaibo, La Guaira, Puerto Cabello, Barquisimeto, and Ciudad Bolívar.

MAIN INDUSTRIES.

The main industries are the manufacture of agricultural machinery and implements, carriages and wagons, pianos, furniture, aerated waters, blank books, stationery, chocolate, ice, matches, mirrors, soap and candles, electrotypes, wines and beer, electric light and power, and others of lesser importance.

BREWERIES.

The two most important breweries in Venezuela are the *Cervecería Nacional* and the Maracaibo brewery. The *Cervecería Nacional*, a stock company capitalized at 2,500,000 bolivars, was established at Caracas the 16th of August, 1894, with a capital of 600,000 bolivars. The enterprise prospered from the beginning. In 1895 it was obliged to increase its capital to 1,300,000 bolivars, and in 1901 to 2,500,000 bolivars, its present capital. This last increase was due to the purchase of two rival establishments, the breweries of Puerto Cabello and Valencia.

The *Cervecería Nacional*, of Caracas, produces actually from 10,000 to 12,000 hectoliters annually, although it could easily produce 30,000 hectoliters. The beer is sold in casks or in bottles in all the central and eastern provinces. The hops come from Germany and Austria and the bottles and corks from Germany. The ice plant annexed to the brewery produces, after cooling the vats, 2,300 kilograms of ice per day. The *Cervecería Nacional* is very prosperous. A German

company has recently acquired control in the management of the concern and will further develop the business.

Owing to the recent establishment of breweries the importation of beer has reached a mere nominal figure, and in a very short time will cease entirely. Large quantities were formerly imported from the United States, England, and Germany.

BUTTER AND LARD.

The United States trade in butter and lard with Venezuela does not receive the attention which is warranted. Of the total import only about one-eighth is accredited to the United States. Danish butter is largely used, forming the only import from Denmark, but as it is shipped from Hamburg it figures as a German export. This commands a retail price of from 35 to 40 cents per pound, and is highly regarded on account of its excellent packing. Butter from the United States is often carelessly packed and faultily invoiced, which conditions are largely responsible for the stringent regulations made concerning chemical tests of its purity. Violations of the law invoicing "impure" articles as "pure" will not only cause confiscation, but in addition will result in the payment of double the duty fixed by the Government. Puerto Cabello is an important port of entry for the lard used in the Republic.

Chemical tests.—On account of impurities and deleterious substances found, upon investigation, to be contained in lard and butter imported into Venezuela, the Government has deemed it necessary to submit all such importations arriving at the custom-houses of this country to a chemical analysis to establish their purity.

The following statement from the director of the national laboratory shows the chemical properties which American pork, lard, and butter must possess to be considered pure, according to the Venezuelan tariff law:

1. Absorption of iodine (index of Hübl) referred to the total acid greases: From 52 to 69 per cent, or rather referred to the neutral matter, for which it will suffice to multiply the former numbers by 0.955.
2. Index of saponification (Köttstorfer) in miligrams of potash (KOH): From 190.7 to 205.7, or the equivalent, from 294.14 to 272.64.
3. Index of Reichert-Meissl-Wolny (R. M. W.): From 0.4 to 0.6.
4. Point of turbidity: From 24°.1 to 28°.7.
5. Reaction of Becchi-Millian and reaction of Welmans: Negatives.
6. Sulphuric saponification (index of Maumené):
Absolute: From 25°.01 to 33°.02.
Relative: From 69°.8 to 93°.
7. Saturation of 1 gram of acid greases in cubic centimeters of normal soda (NaOH): From 3.58 to 3.68.
8. Point of fusion of the acid greases: From 37°.5 to 45°.8.
9. Point of solidification of above: From 34° to 42°.7.
10. Point of fusion of neutral matter: From 28° to 35°.6.

11. Point of solidification of above: From 24° to 32°.6.
12. Nitrous vapors (Carillet): Solid mass.
13. Density to +75° taken with Mohr balance: From 0.913 to 0.916.

For butter the reactions are:

1. Index of Köttstorfer: In milligrams of potash (K. O. H.): 220 to 243.9 or the equivalent: 255 to 230.
2. Index of R. M. W.: 26 to 32.
3. Index of Hübl: 26 to 35.5.
4. Index of Hehner: 85 to 89.
5. Point of solidification of acid greases: 38° to 40°.

By an enactment of the Venezuelan Congress all lard mixtures and oleomargarine which were formerly in class 3 with pure lard have been placed in class 4 of the tariff; pure lard is retained in class 3. The duty applicable to class 3, according to the tariff, is 23 céntimos per kilogram, while that of class 4 is 75 céntimos.

CHEESE MANUFACTORY.

Only two different kinds of cheese are manufactured on a large scale in the country, one called "llanero" and the other "maracay." The first kind comes from the cattle estates of the Guárico and the Tuy and the other from the Aragua State, and especially from the vicinity of the city of Maracay, whence it derives its name. Both kinds are of a creamy color, and the price fluctuates between \$15 and \$25 per quintal (46 kilograms). The production supplies the needs of the country.

CHOCOLATE MANUFACTORY.

The protective duty of 1 bolivar per gross kilogram (packing included), which is levied upon all grades of chocolate imported into Venezuela, prohibits the introduction of any except manufactured chocolate, candies, etc., the consumption of which is quite large. An important house in Turin has, in the three years it has been trying to establish a market in Caracas, imported 5,000 kilograms annually. But the protective tariff has almost completely stopped the importation of chocolate in cakes, as it is manufactured in the country in sufficient quantities to supply the national consumption. Two factories of some importance are established at Caracas and supply the local demand. The annual production of the India factory is 20,000 kilograms. The raw material, cacao and sugar, are bought in the country, which produces these articles in abundance and of good quality. Caracas chocolate is considered the best product of its kind in the world.

CIGARETTE FACTORIES.

The cigarette factories, of which there are several, are protected by high import duties and are in a very flourishing condition. The most important one buys its tobacco in leaves partly from Cuba and partly from Capadare, Maturín, Quebrada Seca, Macarao, Güigue, and Guanape (Venezuela). Great numbers of American machines are employed

in the preparation of the tobacco. All of the cigarette factories, in spite of the competition, make large profits, 25 to 30 per cent.

A tobacco trust has recently been formed by an American company. It is reported that this company will endeavor to concentrate and control the tobacco and cigarette trade in Venezuela. The daily production and consumption of cigarettes in the Federal District amounts to about 50,000 boxes, each containing from 15 to 20 cigarettes; that is to say, about 900,000 cigarettes daily. Many thousands of boxes are forwarded to the interior of the country for its consumption.

COTTON GOODS MANUFACTORY.

A cotton goods manufactory was established in Caracas in 1899. The promoters of the enterprise and nearly all the stockholders were citizens of the United States. According to the reported concessions the company was granted exemption from taxation, raw material used in the mills to be admitted free, and all employees to be exempt from military service. All raw material was to be imported from the United States. The capital of this enterprise was \$312,500, divided into 3,125 shares of \$100 each. The erection of suitable buildings in or in close proximity to the city of Caracas was commenced shortly after the contract.

Valencia factory.—There has existed for many years in Valencia a fine plant for the manufacture of cotton cloth. A part of the raw material is imported and the rest produced in Venezuela.

Decision relative to cotton goods.—A decree issued on December 3, 1898, reads as follows:

“In order to avoid difficulties and controversies at the custom-houses of the Republic in the dispatch and classification of colored cotton goods manufactured with colored threads, or with white and colored threads, plain or striped lines, etc. (fancy or not), which are in many cases considered by the examiners as mixed ‘colored cotton and linen goods’ belonging to the sixth class, when they are sent as ordinary colored prints which pertain to the fifth class, therefore making them subject to confiscation according to law, the President of the Republic has decided: That when said cotton goods imported contain only 13 threads in a square of 5 millimeters they should be considered as ordinary cotton prints belonging to the fifth class, and when the same square of 5 millimeters contains more than 13 rows of thread they shall be considered as mixed cotton and linen goods of the sixth class.

“Importers of ordinary cotton prints are obliged to specify in their consular declaration that said prints do not contain over 13 rows of thread, in warp or woof, to the square of 5 millimeters.

“Noncompliance with this formality will be sufficient to classify the goods as belonging to the sixth class from the 1st of January, 1899.”



ENCANTADO RAPIDS, RIVER GUAIRE.
(Courtesy of the Venezuelan Government.)



ELECTRIC POWER PLANTS.

There are several electric plants in Venezuela, three of which are run by water. One is situated at El Encantado, 16 kilometers from Caracas. During the rainy season it develops 400 horsepower, but from December to April this is reduced to 100 or less, as in the dry months the water is used for irrigating the adjoining lands. This enterprise was organized in 1897 with a capital of about \$200,000 gold. Three vertical turbines are employed, and the generators are alternating currents and develop power of 5,000 volts. Most of the apparatus is of Swiss manufacture. The wires came from Italy.

The power developed is used by corn mills, also by printing offices, coffee mills, etc. At night it is employed to light Caracas, 12 cents per horsepower being paid for this purpose. The other industrial concerns pay from 30 cents to 50 cents per horsepower per day of ten hours. The company has completed a new plant, $1\frac{1}{4}$ miles farther away, at a point where there is a waterfall of 91 meters, from which station is obtained 1,500 horsepower.

Another enterprise is at Merida (Mérida State). This was established in 1900 to light the city; only about 150 horsepower is developed. All the machinery is of American make and of direct current system.

San Cristobal (Táchira State) has an electric station of 200 horsepower to light the city and furnish power for a few industrial concerns.

The following electric plants have steam as motive power:

Caracas.—"Compañía de Gas y Luz Eléctrica de Caracas," with a capital of 2,300,000 bolivars, 300 horsepower, uses patent fuel (4 tons daily) and 7,350 gallons of water. The plant has a capacity of 96 voltaire arc lamps of 2,000 candlepower, which are used in the streets, and a great quantity of incandescent lamps of 16 candlepower for private houses. For arc lights 50 cents is paid per night of six and one-half hours; for incandescent, \$1.80 per month. These last are the Edison system.

Maracaibo.—An electric plant furnishes light for 950 arc lights of 1,000 candlepower and a great quantity of incandescent lamps. Fuel being cheap, the price of the latter is 80 cents per month for all night.

Valencia.—A plant furnishes electric power for 60 arc and a great number of incandescent lights.

Puerto Cabello.—A plant furnishes power for 50 arc and a considerable number of incandescent lights. The arc lights are of 800 candlepower.

EMULSION FACTORY.

United States consul at Maracaibo transmitted, under date of November 29, 1900, copy of a contract made by the Venezuelan Government with manufacturers of a well-known emulsion, authoriz-

ing them to establish a factory at the capital, and granting the free introduction into the country of the necessary bottles, etc., the contract to last twenty-five years. It is completing installment and promises good results.

LEATHER MANUFACTORIES.

Leather manufacturing is the principal native industry, all the raw material being found in the country. The hides are furnished by horned cattle, sheep, deer, and goats of the States of Lara and Falcón. The tanning barks are obtained from *myrobalsam*, *mangle*, *dividivi*, and *quebracho* from the forests of the Orinoco and the Zulia. About the middle of the century some European workmen—Italians and Spaniards principally—established a shoe factory in Caracas, and, protected by the customs duties, the leather, tanning, saddlery, and shoe-making industries were gradually established in the country. There are several tanneries at Caracas. The largest of these buys about 80 oxhides a day from the Caracas abattoirs, and in addition treats about 200 sheepskins and 60 dozen goatskins bought at Maracaibo and at Coro. This factory only uses for tanning purposes the bark of the *dividivi* coming from the valleys of Aragua, Coro, Margarita, and Maracaibo, and the bark of the *mangle* from this last port. Only ordinary or half-fine leather for soles and vamps is produced in this factory. The fine leather, varnished calfskins, etc., come from France, Germany, and the United States. The saddleries established at Caracas also make many saddles, varying in price from 60 to 600 bolivars. There are very many tanneries throughout the country.

MATCH FACTORIES.

There are several match factories in Caracas and other principal cities of Venezuela.

PAPER FACTORY.

The minister of fomento of the United States of Venezuela, thereto authorized by the Federal Executive, of the one part, and of the other, a Venezuelan engineer, have entered into a contract, the contractor engaging to establish a paper factory in the Republic within two years after the approbation of this contract by the National Congress.

The Government undertakes not to burden this enterprise or its products, from the date of the approbation of this contract, with any national impost, and to solicit the like concession from the States and municipalities. Import duties are excepted from this exemption, and they shall be paid in accordance with the laws on the subject.

The Government undertakes not to grant to any other person any concession more advantageous than that which is granted to the contractor by virtue of this contract.

The contract is granted for a term of twenty years.

It can not be transferred to a foreign government or any person or company without the consent of the Federal Executive.

All doubts and controversies of whatever nature that arise under the contract shall be adjusted in conformity with article 139 of the present national constitution.

PORCELAIN FACTORIES.

The Venezuelan Government has recently granted a contract for the manufacture of porcelain, glass, crystal, and pottery in Venezuela according to the following terms:

The contractor undertakes to establish in the Federal District, or at other points in the Republic of Venezuela, one or more factories for the manufacture of such objects of crystal, glass, porcelain, and pottery as should be required for the consumption of the country. The factories shall be established and in working order within the two years following the date on which this contract is approved by the National Congress, except in case of impediments caused by superior force or accident, legally proved before the Federal Executive.

As special protection to this industry, which is a new one in Venezuela, the Federal Executive makes the following concessions to the contractor: The exclusive right to exercise the said industry in the State, Territory, or Federal District in which a factory may be installed during the first ten years of the duration of this contract; the right to use gratis, during the continuance of this contract, all prime materials found on unreclaimed lands, the property of the nation; the right to import, free of duty, for once only, for each of the factories which the contractor may establish, the machinery, apparatus, instruments, building materials, tools, and implements destined for the installation and exploitation of his factories, on complying for that purpose, on every importation, with the legal requisites; and the exemption of this enterprise and its annexes and products from the payment of all national imposts and contributions during the continuance of this contract.

The concession is granted for a term of fifteen years.

All doubts and controversies which may arise in the interpretation and execution of the contract shall be settled amicably between the contracting parties; but in case it be impossible to agree, they declare that they will submit in everything to the provisions of article 139 of the Federal Constitution now in force, and such doubts shall not in any case be allowed to give rise to international reclamations.

The contractor shall have the power to transfer in part or in their entirety the rights which he acquires by this contract, with the previous consent of the Federal Executive, but shall in no case transfer the same to a foreign government.

SHOE FACTORIES.

The demand for shoes of the Venezuelan people consists of about 5,000,000 pairs of sandals and 1,500,000 pairs of shoes or boots of all kinds, and is entirely supplied by the home industry. There are 757 shoemakers and shoe establishments in the country. Two large factories in Caracas employ 200 workmen. Their efforts to afford the country cheaper shoes have, however, not entirely driven out the shoemakers. On the contrary, handmade goods are preferred, this branch, often carried on as a house industry, furnishes generally a good and profitable employment. The two factories in Caracas have up to this time done nothing in regard to exportation, and owing to the comparatively high prices of the production, will probably not be able to do so for some time. The importation of foreign footwear into Venezuela is forbidden by the customs tariff of May 21, 1897. Foreign competition is therefore out of the question.

One shoe factory at Caracas produces daily 500 pairs of shoes and slippers of every size and shape. The price of these shoes varies from 2.50 to 22 bolivars a pair. There is another shoe factory at La Guaira which produces 200 pairs of shoes and 40 dozen *alpargatas* (ordinary slippers) daily. It has retail houses at Ciudad Bolivar and Maracaibo and sends its products to all parts of the Republic.

SILK-SPINNING SPIDERS.

Large silk-spinning spiders are to be found in some of the palm trees of Venezuela. Some of the insects produce white and others yellow silk, and their product is woven into handkerchiefs. The entomologist of the Department of Agriculture of the United States says that silk produced in this way can not be made valuable commercially because of the necessity of keeping the spiders separated to prevent their devouring each other. Their food being insects, this also involves considerable labor in supplying them. Therefore, until some device be adopted to overcome the existing drawbacks, this silk product can not become a new commercial commodity of Venezuela.

STEAM LAUNDRY.

A steam laundry, located at Caracas, has built up a good business in the past three or four years. It is competently managed and does first-class work.

OTHER MANUFACTORIES AND INDUSTRIES.

There is near Caracas a plant for the manufacture of wicks, which has been in operation for several years.

There are several sawmills at Caracas and other principal cities of Venezuela.

At Valencia and Caracas there are first-class foundries capable of undertaking any kind of work.

In Mérida the principal industry is the manufacture of woolen carpets dyed with vegetable dyes, giving the brightest colors.

The manufacture of cheese is the principal industry of the region of the plains.

In the vicinity of Barquisimeto, Guanare, and Acarigua, and in several other places, hammocks, bags, and bagging are manufactured of "*cocuiza*" and "*cocuy*" (species of henequén).

In Cumaná stone water filters are made and used throughout the country.

In the States of Lara, (former) Los Andes, and Falcón, beautiful cotton and woolen embroideries are made by hand, used for trimming shawls and other wearing apparel.

Sugar, *papelón* (species of brown sugar), alcohols, and rums are manufactured in the sugar-cane plantations.

The products of the animal industry are hides, skins, feathers, animal fats, wool, hair, wax, and honey.

Shipbuilding is as yet in its infancy and is scarcely worthy of mention; however, a large number of small craft for navigation on the coasts, rivers, and lakes is manufactured. The best shipyard in Venezuela is in Maracaibo. Years ago a small steamboat was built in Clarines, the only one of its kind ever made in Venezuela.

INDUSTRIES:

The following is an abstract from a report of the United States Consul at Puerto Cabello:

The industries of this district are the following: Breweries, two, German capital; capacity of tanks, about 5,000 gallons; both manufacture ice. Bakeries, eight, most of them French capital; product, bread, crackers, and cakes. Cigar and cigarette manufactories, Venezuelan capital; some foreign tobacco is used, but the majority is produced in the celebrated Capadare district of Venezuela. Candle manufactories, four; one German capital. Cotton-cloth manufactory, one; Venezuelan capital. Electric-light plants, two, United States capital; one in Valencia and other in Puerto Cabello; supply light to cities and residences; managers of both are Americans. Cornmeal-grinding mills, twelve, Venezuelan capital. Hat manufactories, four; French, Italian, and Venezuelan capital. Marble quarry, one, German capital; marble said to be superior to that of Italy. Marble works, one, German capital; makes monuments, tombstones, table tops, slabs, etc. Medicine manufactories, eight, most of German capital. Coconut-oil manufactories, two, German capital; product consumed here. Rum and bay-rum distilleries, four, Venezuelan capital. Shoe manufactories,

ten (some small), French and Venezuelan capital; alpargatas, similar to sandals, are the popular footwear; fine shoes are also made. Soap manufactories, four, German capital; a good article is produced; cocoanut oil is used in its manufacture. Saw and wood-working mills, three, French and Venezuelan capital; modern machinery and saws are employed; considerable pine from the United States is used.

PEARL INDUSTRY.

The pearl fisheries of Margarita date back to an epoch beyond the discovery of America by Columbus, it being an historical fact that the native Indian women, when first seen by the European explorers, were adorned with necklaces and armlets of pearls of great value.

With the advance in the price of pearls there appears to have been extraordinary activity on the island of Margarita. About 400 sail-boats are used by the natives in the fisheries of this and the neighboring islands of Coche and Cubagua. The principal pearl beds are at El Tirano, northeast, and Macanao, northwest of Margarita. About 2,000 men find constant employment in this trade. The fishers use meal scoops which are dragged over the oyster beds, and when filled are brought to the surface, where the shells are opened and carefully examined. The boats used are from 3 to 15 tons capacity, and pay to the Venezuelan authorities 15 bolivars (about \$3) each for permits to fish. The pearls are very fine in quality, beautiful in luster, and run from white to yellow; occasionally a black one, priceless in value, is brought to the surface. The shell of the oyster is not of much commercial value, being too thin for the manufacture of buttons and other fancy articles such as are made from the oriental pearl shell. This is due, it is said, to the short life of the Margaritan pearl oyster, eight years being about the average age. Pearls from dead oysters have very little value, as they lose their luster. A French company has recently started fishing for pearls by means of divers and diving apparatus, and expects good results from the enterprise. The divers claim they can select the larger oysters and leave the smaller undisturbed, giving them time to grow and increase in value. This company purchased the concession from a Venezuelan and has to pay the Venezuelan Government 10 per cent royalty on the profits of the enterprise. The value of pearls found near Margarita is estimated at about \$900,000 a year. If the new method adopted by the French company be successful, the output will probably be considerably increased in quality and value in the future.

In 1900 the Government of Venezuela granted to a contractor the exclusive right to take mother-of-pearl, pearls, sponges, turtles, and products of the sea, except fish, in the maritime zone included between Costa Firme (the mainland) and the island of Margarita and between

the latter and adjacent islands—said fisheries to be conducted by means of submarine apparatus, the existing pearl fisheries being free to work according to the methods employed at the time. The contractor surrendered 10 per cent of his net profits.

In 1902 an assignee of the contractor entered into an additional contract with the Venezuelan Government regarding pearl fishing, and according to the latest information pearl fishing has been prohibited in certain parts of the waters of the Republic.

Pearl fishing is regulated by an Executive decree of July 16, 1903, and by another of July 17, 1903.

HAT TRADE OF VENEZUELA.

United States manufacturers and exporters have not given this field the degree of attention it merits, notwithstanding the fact that hats of certain makes from the United States have a standard value in the markets of the world and would command a ready sale in Venezuela and other South American markets were their qualities adequately advertised. One drawback to a more effective knowledge of this branch of trade on the part of the Latin-American buyers is limited means of communication as compared with transit facilities between Venezuelan cities and European cities. At certain ports of the Republic there is on an average an arrival of one steamer each day from Europe, while the limit of direct intercourse with the United States is fixed by one line, having a weekly service. One of the consequences of this is a high freight rate from and to the United States, while European competing companies are enabled to lower their transport schedule for the benefit of foreign purchasers.

Though many hatters in Venezuela adopt the French style of headgear, the greater number of hats come from Germany. France and England send only a very small proportion. Wool hats come from Austria, France, and Italy, the latter country also furnishing the majority of the straw hats. In the cities the European style of hats is adopted. In the provinces, however, the favorite headgear of the plainmen, or "llaneros," is a wide-brimmed low-crowned hat, which is made of either velvet and straw, called "pelo de guama," or straw hats from moriche and other palm trees.

It is difficult to give precise indications of this trade, owing to the fact that the custom-house statistics make no distinction between the imports of straw and felt hats.

Felt hats, which are placed in class 9 of the customs tariff, paying 20 bolivars (\$3.86) per kilogram, are very seldom imported ready-made, the felts being shipped and upon arrival are made into the desired shapes. In the matter of straw hats a different process is employed. All the parts are sent separately to avoid high duties, and

are made up by the local hatters. Straw hats sent under the head of "sombreros de paja sin ningún adorno" (untrimmed straw hats) come under the sixth class of the tariff, and pay 2.50 bolivars (48 cents) per kilogram. Ribbons for hats, in class 4, pay 75 cents the kilogram, and hat crowns and sweat bands are in class 4 and pay 14½ cents the kilogram import duty. The manufacture of straw hats is almost universal.

Goods imported into Venezuela being taxed at the custom-house according to their gross weight, hats are generally packed in crates lined with oilcloth or a thin zinc sheeting. Velvet hats are shipped, like other textile fabrics, in bales closely strapped by iron bands.

MARKET FOR UNITED STATES MANUFACTURERS.

The conditions in Venezuela are most conducive to the manufacturers of the United States finding a profitable market for their goods. The climate is good and it is an excellent winter resort for Americans. People going there with business intentions find it to their advantage to comply with the laws and customs of the country and to understand the Spanish language. Factories are not numerous and there is a scarcity of skilled labor. Goods must be shipped when ordered, and packed as directed, for the customs tariff is levied on the gross weight of the merchandise imported, and rough handling of goods is the rule. Light but strong packing is necessary to insure safe delivery.

United States manufacturers can not work up a business intercourse with South America by occasionally sending a representative with samples to drum up trade. Business is transacted entirely in the Spanish language; the terms and conditions of the buyers must be complied with and long credits given. The commercial standing of the merchants is high and trade failures are few. The construction of tramways, bridges, waterworks, and sawmills, as well as the development of the mines are among the paying enterprises.

Among articles of United States product and manufacture that might be profitably exported from that country to Venezuela are: Provisions of all kinds, small ice machines for domestic use, petroleum and hot-air engines, windmills, brick-making machinery, furniture, cutlery, butter, household appliances, tiles, whisky, electric fans, novelties, earthenware, cheap glassware, corrugated iron, silverware, plated goods, clocks, underwear, laundry machinery, brooms, brushes, refrigerators for butchers and for domestic use, lithograph work, gasoline stoves, oil cooking stoves, ready-made clothing, cottons, drills, light wagons and carriages for rough road travel, loaf sugar, rough lumber, coffee-cleaning machinery, coal in briquettes, locks and bolts of particular style, hoes, tinware, willow ware, wooden ware, Philadelphia dressed kid, hammocks, plows, rattan furniture, and mixed paints.

The total exports of Venezuela amount to nearly \$20,000,000 annually, and the imports are valued at, approximately, \$14,000,000. Taxes are low and the rate of interest is high. The cost of registering a trade-mark is \$25, and for registering a patent \$140. The currency is on a gold basis, the gold coins being 20-dollar and 4-dollar pieces.

MARKET FOR AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS.

The following report was received at the United States Department of Commerce and Labor from the United States consul at La Guaira:

"Hand labor v. machinery.—The cost of hand labor is not high for agricultural work. For manufacturing many labor-saving implements might be used.

"Roads, animals, and vehicles.—The roads are not suitable for United States styles of vehicles, and draft animals are rather small for any ordinary vehicles for freight. The lighter kind of pleasure vehicles could be used when the roads are good.

"Implements.—Few United States agricultural implements are sold here.

"How to increase United States trade.—The only suggestion as to how to introduce such implements would be that some demonstration of their practical use be made by interested parties. The principal reason for this is the geological formation of the country, which is mostly mountainous, excepting the vast plains of the interior.

"The following is a list of articles which might sell most readily if properly introduced:

Agricultural implements.

Axles, wagon and carriage.

Brass goods.

Corn planters.

Corn huskers.

Cornshellers.

Castings, malleable.

Castings, gray iron.

Carts.

Cordage.

Dump carts.

Fencing wire.

Horsepowers.

Hardware and carriage specialties.

Harness.

Horseshoes.

Implements, farm.

Mills, saw.

Mills, cane.

Machines, brick.

Plows, wheel and walking.

Plumbing supplies.

Scales.

Shovels.

Springs, wagon and carriage.

Sickles.

Trucks, warehouse.

Umbrellas, rain and sun.

Vehicles.

Wagons, farm.

Windmills.

Windmill towers.

Windmill pumps.

Wheelbarrows.

Well-drilling machines and tools.

CARACAS WAREHOUSE.

An exhibition warehouse in the city of Caracas, Venezuela, was established on March 29, 1898, after months of careful investigation and study of conditions by a special commissioner of the National Association of Manufacturers, and the association received applications for space in the building which has been secured for the purpose. The warehouse was designed to serve as a permanent exposition of American goods and as headquarters for salesmen visiting Venezuela in the interest of exhibitors. The aim of the association in establishing this warehouse was to stimulate trade between the United States and Venezuela, by familiarizing the merchants of Venezuela with the American goods which they can purchase to advantage.

This warehouse was established under the terms of a special concession granted to the National Association of Manufacturers by the Government of Venezuela. This concession gave the privilege of entering goods free of duty when intended for exhibition in the warehouses of the association in Venezuela, duty to be paid only in case of the actual sale of the goods. This privilege, the high favor with which all things American are regarded in Venezuela, and the large variety of American-made goods which are salable in that country, make the conditions exceptionally favorable for such an enterprise. Prominent business men in Caracas took active part in the preliminary work of establishing this warehouse, and the Venezuelan Government has manifested a lively interest in the project and has indicated a disposition to aid in every practicable manner to make the enterprise a complete success.

As this was the first of an extensive system of similar depots which the National Association of Manufacturers contemplates establishing in various foreign trade centers, it is desired that this warehouse shall be in every way a model institution of its kind. The plans for its organization and management were carefully formulated, and the exhibits were confined to those lines of goods for which there is a known market in Venezuela. There are many articles of American manufacture which it would be useless to attempt to sell in Venezuela, and exhibits of such goods as these are not desired. The entire enterprise was planned upon a basis of practical benefit to its participants.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES.

Manufactures.—Cloaks and capes of *friez* (baize) are much worn by the country people and soldiers of Venezuela. The cloth from which these capes are made is either red or dark blue in color and can be purchased almost everywhere throughout the country. This cloth is imported exclusively from Great Britain. As the demand for these

goods is considerable Venezuela should be a good market for American manufacturers to dispose of some such materials.

Industries.—There is a splendid opening for the establishment in Venezuela of factories for preserving meat and making meat extract. Cattle are abundant and cheap, and the only available markets at present are in the West Indies. The country is about half the distance of the River Plate from Europe and seven days from the United States by direct line. These facts have been long known, yet it was only in 1901 that there was much disposition among well-known capitalists to take practical steps to establish factories on the Orinoco, in Barcelona, and in the Guárico State.

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CHAPTER IX.

COMMERCE, STATISTICAL DATA, LAWS, CUSTOMS TARIFF.

COMMERCE.

Commerce in the sixteenth century.—When the Spaniards arrived in Venezuela there existed but one aboriginal nation, the Caribbean, which engaged in trade.

Commerce with the mainland was carried on principally with the province of Caracas and consisted chiefly in pearl fisheries which made renowned, in the sixteenth century, the islands of Margarita, Cubagua, Coche, and Punta-Araya. In 1530 this commerce aggregated \$800,000.

The first commercial intercourse between Venezuela and Spain took place in 1560, when a ship loaded with goods was allowed to make an annual trip from the mother country.

In the seventeenth century.—The Dutch residents of Curaçao in 1634 began to barter with the colonists cacao and hides for European goods to such an extent that the metropolitan government decreed its suppression which gave rise to clandestine commerce.

In the eighteenth century.—In 1728 Philip V established the so-called “Guipuzcoan Company” which was entitled to send every year two ships to Venezuela laden with Spanish products which were to be landed at La Guaira. In 1734 the company was allowed to send as many ships as it thought necessary, and in 1742 it obtained the monopoly of the commerce of the province of Caracas, which measure brought about a revolution in 1749.

The regulations of free commerce enacted in 1778 dissolved the Guipuzcoan Company, but the Philippine Company was its successor until 1780, when it ceased by royal order.

In 1796 forty-three ships arrived at La Guaira. Imports amounted to \$3,115,811 and produced \$281,328 customs duty. Thirty-seven ships exported \$2,098,316 worth of merchandise which paid \$138,052 export duty.

From 1786 to 1796 the exports of coffee were as follows:

Coffee exports, 1786-1796.

Year.	Weight.
	<i>Quintals.</i>
1786-1790.....	934
1791-1795.....	10,905
1796.....	4,849

In 1797 the King opened the ports of Spanish America to foreign commerce.

In 1800 the ports were closed by royal decree.

In the nineteenth century.—In 1801 the captain-general opened the ports during six months.

In 1808 coffee exports amounted to 60,745 quintals.

In 1810, just before the declaration of independence, the exports of Venezuela reached \$4,776,500, thus distributed:

Articles.	Quantity.	Value.
Cacao.....fancgas..	130,000	α \$1,625,000
Cotton.....bales..	40,000	486,000
Coffee.....cwts..	80,000	800,000
Indigo.....pounds..	1,000,000	1,250,000
Vanilla.....do..	150,000	7,500
Sarsaparilla.....do..	100,000	6,000
Hides.....	130,000	130,000
Horns.....	200,000	2,000
Horses and mules.....	6,000	180,000
Horned cattle.....	18,000	218,000
Copper.....pounds..	800,000	80,000
Total.....		4,776,500

α Dollars.

Commerce in 1831.—In 1831, after Venezuela separated from Greater Colombia and became a Republic, its imports amounted to \$2,047,026.49 and its exports to \$2,169,207.36, the total movement of commerce being \$4,216,233.77. This trade was carried on through 8 ports and in 834 vessels, of which 407 were national and 427 foreign.

Imports and exports from 1831 to 1842.—The following table shows the imports and exports of Venezuela from 1831 to 1842:

Year.	Imports.	Exports.	Excess of exports.	Excess of imports.
1831.....	α \$2,047,000	α \$2,169,000	α \$122,000	.....
1832.....	2,686,000	2,286,000	.....	α \$400,000
1833.....	2,638,000	2,418,000	.....	220,000
1834.....	2,637,000	2,716,000	79,000	.....
1835.....	2,800,000	2,662,000	.....	138,000
1836.....	2,465,000	3,279,000	814,000	.....
1837.....	3,744,000	3,955,000	211,000	.....
1838.....	2,441,000	3,407,000	966,000	.....
1839.....	3,442,000	4,297,000	855,000	.....
1840.....	4,973,000	4,751,000	.....	222,000
1841.....	5,920,000	4,928,000	.....	992,000
1842.....	5,044,000	6,082,000	1,038,000	.....

α One venezolano has been taken as equivalent to the United States dollar.

As Venezuela is principally an agricultural country the vast extent of its area, the fertility of its soil, the wealth and diversity of its products, and proximity to the United States and European markets give it a great commercial advantage over other tropical countries. For this reason its export commerce became more developed than its import because the country produces, without difficulty, the commodities which other countries need. This excess of exports over imports amounted to over \$3,000,000 from 1831 to 1842, as shown by the foregoing table.



VIEW OF BARQUISIMETO.
(Courtesy of Mr. J. V. Noel.)

Commerce in 1843-1849.—Venezuelan commerce began to increase in 1843, due to the law which organized navigation and gave access to the ports of the Republic. This law taxed all foreign ships with 8 cents per metric ton on arrival at the first port and 4 cents for the following ports. Light-houses were also erected on the coast. In 1845 it was required to present manifests at the Venezuelan custom-houses. In 1849 the custom-house regulations were comprised under the seven following laws passed by Congress:

Navigation.—(1) Open ports; (2) port dues; (3) coast trade.

Custom-houses.—(4) Importation, exportation; (5) custom-house regulations and mode of payment; (6) customs tariffs.

Bonuses.—(7) Shipbuilding.

According to the first law (open ports) the following 14 ports were open to import and export commerce, viz: Ciudad Bolivar, Cumaná, Carúpano, Barrancas, Barcelona, Soledad (Bar), La Guiara, Higuerote, Puerto Colombia, La Vela, Maracaibo, Juan Griego, and Pampatar.

Only for local import trade the following: Cariaquito, Río Caribe, and Caño Colorado.

Only for export trade the following: Sazárida, Andicora Cumarebo, and Guayana la vieja.

The second law (port dues) provided for port dues according to tonnage, excepting men-of-war and when merchantmen were undergoing repairs or put into port in distress. The same law established port fees for the captaincy of the port, doctors, sanitary visit, anchorage, pilotage, fresh-water supply, and navigation permit.

The third law (coast trade) prescribed similar dues, but only authorized Venezuelan vessels to carry on the coast trade.

The three following laws (importation and exportation, custom-house regulations, and custom tariffs) regulated the custom duties and how they were to be paid.

The last law (shipbuilding) established the bonus to be paid for ships constructed in Venezuela.

Commerce in 1854-1856.—Due to the foregoing measures, commerce increased so considerably that Congress passed, in 1854, a new law, modifying and simplifying the opening of ports, and on April 28 of said year the Federal power adopted more rigorous custom formalities. On May 18, 1855, Congress passed a law favoring immigration in order to develop the national industries and agricultural enterprises and the increase in domestic and foreign commercial intercourse. In 1856 the customs dues were modified and increased.

Commerce in 1858-1860.—In 1858 Congress repealed all former customs laws and import and export formalities, suppressed many difficulties, and published the customs tariff, containing an alphabetical list of all articles liable to be imported, and established uniformity of weight, measure, and designation to serve as a basis for collecting cus-

toms duties. The same law established the procedure for seizure of goods and punishment of defrauders. In 1858 and 1860 the customs tariffs were modified and commerce began to increase.

Imports and exports from 1843 to 1860.—The following table gives the imports and exports of Venezuela from 1843 to 1860:

Year.	Imports.	Exports.	Excess of exports.
1843.	\$4,086,000	\$5,418,000	\$1,332,000
1844.	3,527,000	4,773,000	1,246,000
1845.	3,689,000	4,474,000	505,000
1846.	4,349,000	5,096,000	1,347,000
1847.	4,509,000	5,218,000	919,000
1848.	2,985,000	4,447,000	1,462,000
1849.	2,136,000	4,328,000	2,242,000
1850.	3,119,000	4,791,000	1,472,000
1851.	4,473,000	5,050,000	587,000
1852.	4,775,000	4,809,000	34,000
1853.	3,750,000	4,790,000	1,040,000
1854.	4,554,000	5,712,000	1,158,000
1855.	6,242,000	6,556,000	314,000
1860.	6,807,000	8,028,000	1,221,000

^a One venezolano has been taken as equivalent to the United States dollar.

During the seventeen years taken into consideration in the foregoing table Venezuela imported in round figures \$60,000,000 and exported \$75,000,000, which gives an excess of exports of \$15,000,000.

Commerce in 1867.—The percentage of imports to Venezuela in 1867, according to countries, was as follows:

	Per cent of imports.
Great Britain	3.3
Hanseatic cities	19.9
France	17
United States	10.7
Denmark	10
Netherlands	3.6
Spain	3.6
Italy .....	.4
Miscellaneous .....	.9

The percentage of exports was as follows:

	Per cent of exports.
Hanseatic cities	39
France	28.8
United States	12.3
Spain	9.6
Great Britain	4.2
Denmark	4
Netherlands .....	.2

The principal articles exported in 1867 and their values were as follows:

Coffee	\$4,600,000
Cotton	1,600,000
Cacao	1,200,000
Hides	520,000
Tobacco	400,000

The average number of vessels which called at La Guaira was 259 and at Puerto Cabello 389, and their aggregate tonnage amounted to 200,000 tons.

Commerce in 1872.—The declared value of imports and exports of merchandise in 1872 at the custom-houses of Venezuela and the countries whence they were imported and to which they were exported are given in the following table:

Country.	Imports.	Exports.
Germany.....	^a \$2,040,000	^a \$3,320,000
Great Britain.....	1,300,000	320,000
United States.....	840,000	2,340,000
France.....	660,000	1,440,000
Spain.....	240,000	980,000
Netherlands.....	160,000	40,000
Other countries.....	460,000	160,000
Total.....	5,640,000	8,600,000

^a One venezolano taken as equivalent to the United States dollar.

Commerce in 1875.—The value and weight of merchandise imported into and exported from Venezuela in 1875, and the countries from which they were imported and to which they were exported, are given in the following tables:

Imports in 1875, according to countries, giving weights and values.

Imported from—	Kilograms.	Value.
United States.....	13,458,243½	^a \$2,102,489.00
Germany.....	6,212,541	1,934,891.75
Dutch colonies.....	4,798,889½	1,980,432.73
France.....	4,185,508	1,129,681.21
Great Britain.....	3,717,845½	1,815,982.00
British colonies.....	2,424,345½	668,358.82
Spain.....	2,128,383½	228,424.19
Colombia.....	513,216½	295,798.43
Italy.....	353,900½	94,092.87
Danish colonies.....	203,667½	166,906.14
Spanish colonies.....	172,187	83,688.48
French colonies.....	63,456½	26,061.50
Total.....	38,227,183½	10,586,307.12

^a One venezolano taken as an equivalent of the United States dollar.

The goods to which the foregoing table refers were introduced in Venezuela through the custom-houses of the following 14 ports: La Guaira, Puerto Cabello, Coro, Maracaibo, San Carlos (Zulia), Ciudad Bolivar, Táchira, La Vela, Carúpano, Maturín, Puerto Sucre, Puerto Guzmán Blanco, Güiria, and Pampatar.

Exports in 1876, according to countries, giving weights and values.

Exported to—	Kilograms.	Value.
Germany.....	14, 870, 158	^a \$5, 449, 752. 86
United States.....	9, 821, 619 ¹ / ₂	3, 799, 370. 81
Dutch colonies.....	10, 138, 762 ¹ / ₂	2, 642, 960. 67
France.....	10, 598, 329	2, 598, 033. 19
British colonies.....	1, 973, 321 ¹ / ₂	1, 455, 959. 48
Colombia.....	2, 819, 253	505, 007. 22
Spain.....	1, 309, 175	396, 314. 44
Great Britain.....	2, 220, 297	290, 975. 60
French colonies.....	350, 166	87, 677. 21
Italy.....	648, 625	48, 618. 70
Danish colonies.....	137, 754	19, 512. 64
Spanish colonies.....	82, 740	9, 868. 08
Total.....	54, 920, 201	17, 304, 050. 90

^a One venezolano taken as equivalent to the United States dollar.

The products of Venezuela to which the foregoing table refers were exported through the custom-houses of the following 12 ports: La Guaira, Puerto Cabello, Maracaibo, Ciudad Bolivar, Puerto Sucre, Pampatar, Carúpano, La Vela, Güiria, Táchira, Maturín, and Puerto Guzmán Blanco.

Weights and values of products exported in 1876.

Product.	Kilograms.	Values.
Coffee.....	35, 721, 130	^a \$11, 720, 809. 91
Cacao.....	4, 328, 577	1, 400, 670. 19
Bullion.....	5, 087 ¹ / ₂	1, 144, 562. 86
Gold in bars.....	1, 609 ¹ / ₂	942, 948. 97
Cotton.....	2, 347, 315	596, 468. 99
Goatskins.....	456, 644	311, 013. 93
Deerskins.....	183, 571	146, 994. 50
Hides.....	717, 710	255, 165. 72
Dyewoods.....	6, 604, 901	120, 833. 34
Tobacco.....	441, 738	61, 890. 66
Indigo.....	17, 249	20, 594. 67
Other products.....	4, 094, 719	581, 809. 16
Total.....	54, 920, 201	17, 304, 050. 90

^a One venezolano taken as equivalent to the United States dollar.

Commerce in 1884.—According to the law passed by Congress on December 31, 1883, merchandise imported from foreign countries was divided into nine classes, and duties levied on them according to the following tariff:

[Per kilogram.]

First class	Free of duty.
	Bolivars.
Second class	0. 10
Third class .....	. 25
Fourth class .....	. 75
Fifth class	1. 25
Sixth class	2. 50
Seventh class	5. 00
Eighth class	10. 00
Ninth class	20. 00

The total imports in 1884 amounted to \$17,253,000 and the exports to \$19,494,000, there being an excess of exports of \$2,479,000.

Commerce in 1887-88.—The declared value of imports and exports of merchandise in the year 1887-88 at the custom-houses of Venezuela, and the countries from where they were imported and to which they were exported, are given in the following tables:

1887.

Country.	Imports.	Exports.
United States	α \$4,972,575.90	α \$7,577,729.06
Great Britain	3,548,896.09	761,088.88
France	2,611,872.00	3,081,416.90
Germany	2,062,256.89	2,246,659.68
Colombia	487,173.69	.....
British colonies	306,809.50	.....
Spain	268,671.31	33,561.00
Dutch colonies	111,646.81	.....
Italy	101,208.40	6,592.00
Netherlands	95,144.28	243,116.00
Spanish colonies	41,406.88	.....
West Indies .....	.....	3,289,144.61
Other countries	26,713.96	9,741.00
Total	14,688,374.71	18,128,449.18

α Five bolivars taken as equivalent to the United States dollar.

1888.

Country.	Imports.	Exports.
Great Britain	α \$4,702,022.76	α \$663,793.19
United States	3,948,764.95	9,123,499.97
Germany	2,692,078.12	2,009,377.20
France	2,530,355.57	3,041,961.98
Colombia	869,495.49	825.00
West Indies	436,820.87	1,885,309.21
Spain	364,251.30	43,723.00
Netherlands	162,355.51	59,938.00
Italy	50,354.00	45,210.00
Other countries	38,579.11	9,351.00
Total	15,793,074.68	18,793,993.55

α Five bolivars taken as equivalent to the United States dollar.

The foregoing tables show that the United States, Great Britain, France, and Germany are the four principal countries with which Venezuela carried on the largest amount of commerce in 1887 and 1888.

The coasting trade between all the ports of Venezuela in the years 1887 and 1888 was as follows:

	1887.		1888.	
	Kilos.	Values.	Kilos.	Values.
Incoming	50,072,645	α \$8,791,159.82	52,375,748	α \$8,991,806.19
Outgoing	35,259,991	9,162,040.04	32,652,381	9,148,384.55
Total	85,332,636	19,953,399.86	85,028,129	18,140,190.74

α Five bolivars taken as equivalent to the U. S. dollar.

The total commercial activity of Venezuela in 1887 and 1888 amounted, therefore, to \$102,694,749.85, distributed as follows:

Year.	Imports.	Exports.	Coasting trade.	Total.
1887	α \$14,638,376.02	α \$18,128,099.76	α \$17,953,399.86	α \$50,719,875.64
1888	15,792,657.73	18,042,025.71	18,140,190.74	51,974,874.26
Total	30,431,033.75	36,170,125.47	36,093,590.60	102,694,749.85

α Five bolivars taken as equivalent to the United States dollar.

Coffee exports, 1831-1888.—The following table shows the coffee exports from Venezuela from 1831 to 1888:

Year.	Weight.	Value.
1831.....pounds..	11,544,024	α \$1,063,445.85
1835.....do....	5,932,721	711,833.52
1840.....do....	19,126,156	1,938,116.17
1845.....do....	29,034,771	2,372,669.30
1850.....do....	30,977,644	2,347,125.78
1855.....do....	37,745,328	.....
1860.....do....	37,983,885	.....
1865.....do....	28,152,299	.....
1873.....kilos..	34,273,214	11,995,624.00
1876.....do....	32,846,769	11,409,506.98
1882.....do....	42,793,623	7,778,460.20
1887.....do....	41,721,941	9,890,555.00
1888.....do....	43,101,616	11,989,389.60

α Dollars.

Cacao exports, 1700-1888.

Year.	Weight.	Value.
1700.....fanegas..	30,000	.....
1763.....do....	85,659	.....
1800.....do....	198,000	.....
1830.....pounds..	7,215,340	α 975,089.00
1850.....do....	7,346,829	α 1,885,340.00
1888.....do....	7,232,220	\$10,495,137.00

α Pesos.

Tobacco—Exports, 1831-1887.

Year.	Weight.	Value.
1831.....pounds..	101,450	α 30,688.00
1840.....do....	1,197,476	α 147,184.00
1850.....do....	1,520,590	α 143,675.00
1865.....do....	540,923	.....
1875.....kilos..	153,307	b \$23,782.00
1882.....do....	613,353	\$67,825.60
1887.....do....	367,288	\$54,283.40

Sugar-cane products—Exports, 1831-1887.

Year.	Weight.	Value.
1831.....pounds..	111,660	α 20,047.00
1840.....do....	404,629	α 48,371.00
1850.....do....	261,494	α 21,002.00
1872.....kilos..	2,371,575	b \$237,157.00
1882.....do....	25,546	\$3,697.00
1887.....do....	501,041	\$27,271.00

α Pesos.

b Dollars.

Cattle, hides, and skins—Exports, 1831-1883.

Year.	Cattle.		Hides.		Skins.	
	Number.	Value.	Number.	Value.	Number.	Value.
1831.....	1,825	<i>b</i> \$25,080	76,671	<i>b</i> \$135,457	132,346	<i>b</i> \$27,012
1835.....	4,563	93,980	53,083	130,328	78,165	48,601
1840.....	9,968	190,294	163,837	351,311	425,667	148,343
1845.....	17,661	175,818	358,991	741,756	463,219	150,503
1850.....	13,626	89,626	393,394	614,801	494,068	194,456
1855.....	13,960	.....	646,473	.....	386,413	.....
1860.....	.....	.....	389,893	.....	486,406	.....
1865.....	4,566	.....	209,720	.....	209,738	.....
1875.....	.....	.....	<i>a</i> 717,710	255,165	<i>a</i> 640,215	458,008
1882.....	5,929	192,655	<i>a</i> 1,396,098	410,275	<i>a</i> 1,009,454	726,098
1886.....	6,975	125,637	<i>a</i> 2,624,433	739,062	<i>a</i> 881,462	575,545
1887.....	10,381	228,799	<i>a</i> 2,268,466	607,243	<i>a</i> 670,778	404,107
1888.....	12,582	297,319	<i>a</i> 2,274,294	569,387	<i>a</i> 773,093	492,179

a Kilos.*b* Dollars.

Commerce in 1893.—In 1893 Venezuela imported the following amounts: From the United States, \$4,207,661; from France, \$2,335,300; from Great Britain, \$4,553,287; and from Germany, \$2,000,000 more or less, according to the statistics of the Treasury of the United States.

According to the same statistics Venezuela exported the following amounts: To Germany, \$8,500,000; to France, \$8,395,000; to Trinidad, \$1,500,000; and to Great Britain, \$436,403.

Commerce in 1896-97.—The decree of June 30, 1896, was conceived according to the same principles of the law of 1883, and only modified the classification of some articles; but it embodied in the customs regulations the prohibition of introducing certain articles which might be prejudicial to similar domestic products. *This was the first time that the protectionist system was implanted in Venezuela.*

In 1896 nearly six-sevenths in value of imports were subject to duty. The chief exports were coffee, cacao, hides and skins, live stock, timber, cocoanuts. Gold in bars was exported to the value of \$722,000, and currency amounting to \$121,000.

Imports of cotton goods into Venezuela in 1896 were; Great Britain, \$654,967; Germany, \$487,662; France, \$85,499; United States, \$702,541.

The following table gives the exports of Venezuela in 1897, according to countries, number of packages, weights, and values:

Country.	Packages.	Weight.	Value.
United States.....	871,227	<i>Kilos.</i> 19,502,444	<i>a</i> \$3,540,680
France and colonies.....	378,505	21,699,271	5,352,025
Germany.....	135,947	6,518,223	1,761,817
Italy.....	16,642	979,493	189,584
Spain and colonies.....	15,135	1,042,993	186,458
Great Britain and colonies.....	3,227,268	8,830,821	1,624,860
Holland and colonies.....	327,452	26,764,270	5,929,458
Other countries.....	5,705	501,799	64,186
Total.....	4,477,881	85,839,316	18,648,968

a Dollars.

The export trade given in the foregoing table was effected through eleven custom-houses of Venezuela.

According to a British foreign office report (annual series 2094) the

imports into Venezuela in 1896-97 from the United States, England, and Germany represent, respectively, about 41, 31, and 21 per cent of the total. The following details as to trade in 1897 are taken from the official returns of the countries named:

Great Britain: Principal articles of import, feathers (\$175,194) and rubber (\$58,398). Principal articles of export: Cottons, \$1,806,605; manufactures of jute, \$116,796; linens, \$111,930; woollens, \$121,663; tools and machinery, \$121,663; iron and articles of, \$136,262.

Germany: Principal imports: Divi-divi, \$107,100; skins, \$81,158; rubber, \$50,932; coffee, \$1,748,110; cacao, \$305,164. Exports: Cottons, \$128,758; hosiery, etc., \$52,360; iron articles and machinery, \$168,980; cement, \$29,274; beer and malt, \$114,716; porcelain, \$60,452; clothing, \$29,750.

France: Chief articles of import: Coffee, \$4,250,000; cacao, \$1,620,000. Exports: Tools and articles of iron, \$436,000; wines, \$97,000; cottons, \$87,000.

The United States: Trade by articles is not stated for 1897, but according to United States Treasury figures for 1896 the chief articles of import and export were: Imports: Coffee, \$8,128,254; cacao, \$125,478; skins, \$1,107,411. Exports: Flour, \$812,192; cottons, \$668,306; machines and articles of iron, \$471,417; illuminating oils, \$142,053; lard, \$452,870.

The United States consul at La Guaira states in a report that his country leads in flour, hams, lard, butter, spices, kerosene, marble, and lumber, paper, caustic potash, and rosin, barbed wire, salted meats, crackers and biscuits, and machinery. England is first in coal, cement, hardware, agricultural and artisans' tools, iron (raw), sewing thread, bleached cotton and passementerie, cotton cloth, and tin plate. Germany has control of the trade in stationery, rice, cigars, cigarettes, and tobacco, beer, drugs and medicines, crockery and glassware, cheese, and candles, candies and sweets, perfumery, silk, and woolen goods.

Exports from New York to Venezuela during the year 1897.—The following table gives a general résumé of the shipments of merchandise from the port of New York to Venezuelan ports during the year 1897, from data supplied by the consul-general of Venezuela at New York:

Port.	Pack- ages.	Kilos.	Value.
La Guaira	810,513	18,709,410	\$1,354,306.76
Puerto Cabello	166,694	7,087,263	570,666.91
Maracaibo	101,295	6,156,558	650,331.00
Ciudad Bolívar	77,120	3,459,644	280,172.96
La Vela de Coro	45,083	2,086,703	111,888.96
Caripano	19,065	852,058	74,618.24
Guanta	5,106	270,710	21,417.46
Cimáná	3,781	205,561	17,513.56
Caño Colorado	1,788	107,341	6,873.00
Maturín	363	81,715	2,558.35
Guiría	347	16,784	1,326.00
Maracaibo (gold)	18	151	91,351.67
Total	731,121	38,932,896	3,183,016.86

α Dollars.

CARACAS DISTRICT TRADE, 1897.

From the annual report of the acting consul of Great Britain at Caracas to the British foreign office, the following information relating to the trade of Caracas and that consular district is taken: The coffee estates in the country number about 33,000, and those of cacao about 5,000. These two products represent the chief agricultural staples of the Republic. The high protective tariff (practically prohibitive) placed upon sugar, has stimulated the planting of the sugar cane to the extent that there are now 11,000 cane estates, and it is anticipated that this culture will speedily take a prominent place in the agricultural features of the country. The great desideratum to the progress of the country is immigration of a class which will go into the country and help develop the agricultural resources.

On the subject of the development of trade with Venezuela and the agency therein of the National Association of Manufacturers of the United States, the following extract from the report is made:

"The Americans are taking a great hold on the Venezuelan market. They are not so conservative as their competitors and their business methods are quicker, but the principal reason seems to be that they are so much nearer the market. This suits the Venezuelan business man, who does not keep a large stock on hand, but who renews the supply just when it is required.

"The most important move in the direction of developing the commercial relations between the United States and Venezuela is that made by the National Association of Manufacturers, which has its seat at Philadelphia. In the beginning of the year 1896 an agent was sent out to Venezuela to make an agreement for the establishment of a sample warehouse or permanent show room where American manufactures could be introduced to the market under the most favorable conditions."

CARACAS DISTRICT TRADE, 1898.

The British foreign office published (annual series 2315, pp. 14-18) the report on trade and commerce of Venezuela for 1898 from the British acting consul at Caracas, from which report the following is an abstract:

Plans for new branch of agriculture.—Everyone here is now alive to the necessity of trying some other branch of agriculture which will be more in demand, and, therefore, more profitable than coffee. Many are the schemes and various the plans which have been discussed in the press, but up to the present nothing definite has been realized, owing to the want of capital and experienced laborers.

Tobacco.—Great attention has been attracted by the ideas expressed that Venezuela has soil adapted for producing tobacco equal to that

grown in Cuba. This would be, indeed, a great boon for the country, seeing that enormous quantities of tobacco are annually consumed here, where the habit of smoking is universal. In Venezuela, tobacco has always been grown, but on a small scale. It is now suggested that it should be made a staple product.

Fruit farming.—The example of Central American States, Jamaica, etc., is adduced to show the value of tropical fruit farming. There is no doubt that immense tracts of land on the seacoast which now lie waste could be profitably tilled and made to produce plantains, bananas, pineapples, etc., for export to the United States, where a ready market is always to be had.

Foreign trade.—In a report just published by the minister of agriculture and commerce of the imports through the custom-house at La Guaira, the most important in the Republic, during the year 1897–98, it would appear that the United States takes the lead both in weight and value. This must naturally be attributed to the proximity of the two countries. Next, Great Britain in weight, and Germany third, but in value the position is reversed and Germany is second. The synthesis of the report is as follows:

Country.	Quantity.	Value.
	<i>Tons.</i>	
United States	15,909	£277,976
Great Britain	15,023	169,470
Germany	8,892	172,016

The balance of the trade through La Guaira, amounting to 6,796 tons, valued at £312,967, is shared among France, Spain, Holland, and Italy, the relative importance being in the order in which the countries are mentioned.

From this report it is evident that, so far as this part of the Republic is concerned, England holds the entire trade in coal, baize and flannel, shirting, cotton cloth and calicoes, unbleached cottons and drills.

The figures in the report are as follows:

	Great Britain.	United States.	Germany.
	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>
Shirting	245	15	10
Cottons	804	93	88

England is also first in agricultural machinery, but is second in hardware and railway material. Germany is first in household ironware and in tools.

The United States takes the largest share, not to say the whole of the trade, in oils and provisions. This is but natural, owing to the

facility of communication, which allows the articles to come fresher, if even they were not cheaper, which I believe they are. Wines of course come primarily from Spain, France ranking next in this supply.

LA GUAIRA, 1898.

Imports, 1898-1897.—The following table shows the goods imported into La Guaira, with countries from which the goods were shipped during the years 1898-1897:

IMPORTS.

From—	1898.		1897.	
	Packages.	Kilos.	Packages.	Kilos.
Germany	158,480	7,188,937	204,061	10,054,997
Belgium	9,569	1,656,223	9,422	948,229
Colombia	85	8,106	67	9,378
Denmark	105	8,085	70	8,042
Spain	61,761	2,477,586	50,682	2,204,857
United States	229,196	19,376,427	306,715	21,884,216
France	32,164	1,976,711	33,604	2,228,492
Holland	21,077	2,356,948	18,045	1,357,806
Great Britain	49,193	14,203,220	67,718	20,121,311
Italy	10,242	774,272	12,118	1,001,066
Total		49,918,515		59,818,394
Total 1897		59,818,394		
Decrease		9,899,879		

Coasting trade in La Guaira during the fiscal year 1898.

IMPORTS.

	Kilos.
Merchandise	17,022,596
Timber	2,188,057
Coal	337,216
Total	19,547,869

EXPORTS.

Month.	Quantity.				Total.	
	Coffee.	Cacao.	Hides.	Sundries.	Vessels.	Quantity.
	Kilos.	Kilos.	Kilos.	Kilos.	Number.	Kilos.
January	648,111	287,690	86,705	61,675	14	984,181
February	1,271,700	451,624	68,415	29,212	13	1,815,951
March	2,590,494	702,576	82,273	17,494	13	3,392,837
April	3,676,268	778,211	63,417	16,028	14	4,533,924
May	2,570,998	971,114	121,606	26,369	13	3,690,086
June	1,159,574	693,202	81,089	57,483	13	1,991,348
July	362,921	274,483	133,159	33,928	10	804,491
August	287,110	494,716	35,866	37,591	9	855,283
September	141,305	282,282	128,706	18,031	11	570,324
October	74,225	90,442	54,637	15,309	13	284,613
November	251,340	103,747	47,371	10,017	10	412,475
December	874,912	160,079	65,194	33,470	11	1,133,655
Total	13,808,958	5,290,166	963,487	356,607	144	20,419,168

PUERTO CABELLO TRADE, 1898.

The British vice-consul at Puerto Cabello reports as follows (abstract):

IMPORTS.

From—	Value.	
	1897.	1898.
	<i>£</i>	<i>s.</i>
Great Britain	130,818	5
Germany	116,170	0
United States	110,761	10
France	48,566	6
Spain	24,093	8
Holland	20,526	3
Belgium	4,920	5
Italy	9,650	2
Colombia	1,087	3
Cuba		880
Total	466,583	1
		425,140

The increase in the trade with the United States is due to the quicker communication between the two countries, and the cheaper prices there for dry goods, in which England is losing ground here.

Exports from this port amounted to:

EXPORTS.

Articles.	1897.	1898.
	<i>Kilos.</i>	<i>Kilos.</i>
Coffee	10,979,559	13,024,633
Cacao	232,526	325,547
Hides	616,754	530,077
Skins	68,876	128,931
Quina	6,584	1,047
Copra		127,220
Total	11,904,299	14,137,455
Cattle	head..	9,973

MARACAIBO TRADE, 1898.

The British vice-consul at Maracaibo reports as follows (abstract):

The import goods in 1898 amounted to \$983,936 and the exports of all kinds amounted to \$4,212,995.

The export of hides becomes from year to year larger. According to the list of exports in 1897, 30,950 hides were exported, while in 1898 we had an export of 32,886 hides.

In regard to the export of skins there is also a considerable improvement to notice. In 1898 the export amounted to 81,241 kilos, against 40,883 kilos in 1897.

Balsam of copaiba continues with a very perceptible increase. There were exported 35,778 kilograms in 1898 against 22,467 kilograms in 1897.

The export of fish sounds is increasing; last year (1898) showing about double the quantity exported in 1897.



LEGISLATIVE PALACE OF MARACAIBO.
(Courtesy of the Zulia Government.)

The export of quina bark and divi-divi has become less than in former years, owing to its very low prices in the foreign markets.

The asphaltum mines near the coast of Lake Maracaibo have attracted the attention of capitalists on account of their excellent quality. Export of heron plumes and rubber is increasing.

General produce exported from Maracaibo during the year 1898.

Date.	Coffee.		Cacao.		Quina bark.		Hides.		Goatskins.	
	<i>Bags.</i>	<i>Kilos.</i>	<i>Bags.</i>	<i>Kilos.</i>	<i>Pkgs.</i>	<i>Kilos.</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Kilos.</i>	<i>Pkgs.</i>	<i>Kilos.</i>
January 7 to 25.....	26,925	1,588,874	645	30,246	51	2,219	2,815	35,224	85	7,106
February 4 to 26.....	30,803	1,866,969	615	28,358	12	513	2,966	34,008	89	6,469
March 9 to 31.....	61,474	3,112,313	385	18,716	35	1,388	1,324	15,327	81	7,246
April 6 to 30.....	73,646	4,408,590	194	8,991	10	441	3,115	37,501	79	6,616
May 10 to 27.....	31,827	1,895,578	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,346	15,772	6	462
June 4 to 18.....	22,880	1,354,445	242	1,088	86	4,087	2,271	25,964	146	11,260
July 6 to 23.....	22,806	1,348,002	219	9,899	.....	.....	2,688	28,487	118	9,426
August 8 to 29.....	39,481	2,386,150	148	6,454	20	938	2,724	28,844	77	5,956
September 6 to 21.....	38,352	2,307,632	138	6,665	12	637	3,768	44,332	80	6,107
October 1 to 24.....	40,453	2,435,611	154	7,116	40	1,666	4,368	52,279	60	5,435
November 4 to 23.....	30,743	1,829,914	172	7,794	4	188	2,116	24,476	74	5,709
December 2 to 30.....	33,737	2,025,462	95	4,609	.....	.....	3,385	40,028	109	9,450
Total.....	441,579	26,494,580	3,007	129,935	270	12,047	32,886	382,242	1,004	81,241
Against 1897.....	422,318	25,486,079	869	40,438	546	24,460	30,950	372,901	494	40,888

Date.	Copaiba.		Fustic, etc.	Dividivi.	Fish sounds.		Brown sugar.		Deerskins.	
	<i>Pkgs.</i>	<i>Kilos.</i>	<i>Kilos.</i>	<i>Kilos.</i>	<i>Pkgs.</i>	<i>Kilos.</i>	<i>Pkgs.</i>	<i>Kilos.</i>	<i>Pkgs.</i>	<i>Kilos.</i>
January 7 to 25.....	3	100	556,922	.....	32	1,687	906	32,602	4	247
February 4 to 26.....	16	649	925,692	.....	108	6,274	1,239	53,620	7	384
March 9 to 31.....	103	4,296	1,106,767	.....	67	3,636	1,190	43,430	1	125
April 6 to 30.....	149	6,204	1,178,475	13,800	44	2,784	298	13,708	1	85
May 10 to 27.....	49	2,031	710,057	115,618	9	360	748	31,188	.....	.....
June 4 to 18.....	157	6,475	382,828	203,483	40	1,737	610	25,100	8	655
July 6 to 23.....	29	1,173	357,482	.....	74	4,186	751	29,004	1	85
August 8 to 29.....	98	4,080	462,167	116,502	42	2,523	678	27,871	7	631
September 6 to 21.....	17	690	278,096	.....	38	6,284	788	31,116	1	98
October 1 to 24.....	76	3,066	283,200	200,985	28	1,885	1,788	69,768	1	81
November 4 to 23.....	70	2,852	194,827	56,120	27	2,554	1,746	62,548	1	60
December 2 to 30.....	102	4,212	145,962	95,519	76	6,761	451	18,420	2	110
Total.....	869	35,778	6,550,465	802,027	585	40,171	11,132	438,375	34	2,556
Against 1897.....	549	22,467	5,246,022	2,392,900	379	22,704	7,133	319,480	18	1,469

CIUDAD BOLIVAR TRADE, 1898.

The British vice-consul at Ciudad Bolivar reports as follows (abstract):

The trade and commerce of Ciudad Bolivar in 1898 seems to have been stationary as compared with 1897.

Although it is difficult to trace the country from which the goods are originally imported it appears from reliable information that British manufactures continue to maintain their position in textiles.

The United States and Germany take a large share of the trade in hardware, crockery, chemicals, drugs, oils, barbed wire, cement, perfumes, and cutlery.

The Yuruari gold mines produced 39,500 ounces of gold, which is less than in 1897.

Imports of Ciudad Bolívar, 1898 and 1897.

Country.	1898.	1897.
Trinidad	£209,351	£171,986
United States	7,768	38,619
Germany	16,653	33,223
British Guiana	28	17
Total	233,800	243,845

Percentage of imports, 1898 and 1897.

Year.	Value.		Percentage.	
	Trinidad.	Other countries.	Trinidad.	Other countries.
1898	£209,351	£24,449	89½	10½
1897	171,986	71,859	70½	29½

Quantity and value of principal exports from Ciudad Bolívar, 1898 and 1897.

Articles.	1898.		1897.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
Copaiba oil.....kilos.	11,284	£1,812	14,945	£1,686
Cacao.....do.	40,920	2,235	8,756	308
Coffee.....do.	118,657	5,862	256,606	12,434
Rubber (Para).....do.	70,502	16,398		
Rubber (Balata).....do.	509,461	62,740		
Rubber (Para and Balata).....do.			338,742	46,450
Hides.....do.	1,338,238	68,256	1,374,700	70,339
Deer skins.....do.	27,917	1,416	65,026	2,808
Specie.....do.			135	416
Gold bullion.....do.	1,218	111,068	1,353	128,906
Tonka beans.....do.	107,111	19,247	5,213	1,175
Tobacco.....do.	267,718	10,782	109,365	4,837
Heron feathers.....do.	2,839	20,708	2,369	25,810
Cattle.....number.	8,944	42,062	10,278	41,084
Live animals (horses, etc.).....do.	182	679	301	1,027
Other articles.....kilos.	58,047	1,244	86,323	1,917
Total		354,006		339,197

Standing of Venezuelan merchants.—The British Foreign Office, annual series, 2315, publishes on page 11 the following statement of the British minister at Caracas (report for 1898) regarding the reliability of Venezuelan merchants, viz:

“I hear from the various British commercial travelers that the Venezuelan houses with whom they deal are thoroughly trustworthy, and they speak highly of their commercial integrity, The gentleman from whom I have just been quoting stated to me that he had had very large dealings with them during the last ten years, and had only written off £300 (his orders on this visit amount to over £25,000, a large amount for one house from one city). He states that more than 50 per cent of the trade is on prompt cash terms, and that he is completely satisfied with the manner of doing business.”

Coffee crop of the world in 1898.—The following table will convey a fair impression of the production of coffee in the world in 1898, as

ascertained from the estimates and reports of the several sources credited:

Country.	Pounds.	Bags.	Authority.
Brazil	1,533,840,000	11,620,000	United States consul.
Venezuela	116,407,800	881,877	Exports, October to October.
Guatemala	60,238,000	456,424	Native estimate.
Haiti	57,000,000	431,812	Dunring & Zoon.
Mexico	48,145,492	364,729	Official.
Costa Rica	35,461,407	267,889	Do.
Colombia	34,849,639	264,770	Estimated.
Puerto Rico	26,400,000	200,000	Spanish estimate.
Salvador	16,500,000	125,000	Dunring & Zoon.
British West Indies	13,200,000	100,000	Do.
Ecuador	9,858,892	74,681	British report.
Peru	2,734,305	20,707	"El Comercio."
Santo Domingo	2,400,700	18,187	Belgian report.
Dutch West Indies	924,000	7,000	Estimated.
Hawaii	726,000	5,500	Partly official.
Honduras	612,480	4,640	British estimate.
Bolivia	485,000	3,750	Estimated.
Paraguay	343,407	2,602	United States consul.
Dutch Guiana	219,166	1,660	British estimate.
Cuba	132,000	1,000	Estimated.
British Honduras (Belize)	132,000	1,000	Do.
Total American	1,960,619,288	14,853,228	
Java	101,904,000	772,000	Dunring & Zoon.
Ceylon and British India	31,680,000	240,000	Do.
Padang	5,940,000	45,000	Do.
Celebes	5,940,000	45,000	Do.
Total Asia and Africa	145,464,000	1,102,000	
Grand total	2,106,083,288	15,955,228	

As will be seen by the foregoing table Venezuela was second in 1898 among the coffee-exporting countries of the world, her exports in this regard amounting to over 116,000,000 pounds.

SUGGESTIONS TO EXPORTERS.

The French consul at Caracas, in a report to his Government in 1898, made the following suggestions relative to the trade of the Republic:

"Purchases are made here in the Easter and Christmas seasons. These are the periods at which the Venezuelan consumer likes to make his provisions of all kinds. The fact that the Christmas festivities preceding the new year are coincident with the gathering of the coffee crop—the principal industry of the country—is sufficient reason why this date should be chosen. The choice of the Easter season is due only to motives of a religious order; the rainy season is then coming on, which will render transport into the interior difficult. After these two seasons the current of business displays less activity; and our (French) exporters, to whom these observations are especially addressed on this subject, should always bear it in mind. By so doing they would enable the importers to avoid the unpleasantness of remaining with large stocks unsold, owing to the falling back in sales.

"The requirements of the Venezuelan 'Código de Hacienda,' impose on manufacturers desirous of trading with this Republic the necessity of exercising precautions, of which I think it would be useful to give

a summary. They must not forget, for example, to declare in Spanish on the invoices the merchandise shipped, and to declare it in the terms of the tariff. I have seen a fine of 125 bolivars inflicted on a merchant who, having sent shapes of straw hats, had omitted to place on his declaration the translation, 'sombreros de paja sin ningún adorno' (untrimmed hats), the expression used in the tariff. They must also not omit to consult the customs tariff beforehand and to specify exactly what class the merchandise shipped comes under for payment of the import duties. It is also essential to remember that duty is charged on the gross weight of the merchandise. It is necessary in all shipments intended for Venezuela to use for packing only material that is both strong and light at the same time."

OPPORTUNITIES FOR AMERICAN ENTERPRISE.

The consul of the United States at Puerto Cabello submitted in 1898 to the Department of State an extended and interesting report on the opportunities for American enterprise and trade in Venezuela. He states that the trade in cutlery, glass, and earthenware, tiles, and kindred articles can be greatly increased, a medium and ordinary grade finding ready sale. Owing to the high tariff on all tobaccos and the consequent development of native production and manufacture, the importation of that commodity has become greatly restricted, and it is thought that Venezuela will soon become an exporter.

Within six miles of Puerto Cabello marble of a very fine quality has been discovered, and a plant costing over \$50,000 has been erected for the development of the quarries.

The coal used by the railways comes mainly from England, but it is thought that if proper efforts were made, the coal from the Alabama and Virginia regions might be introduced into the country profitably.

The following extract from the report bearing upon the intertrade of Venezuela and the United States, and containing valuable practical suggestions, is given:

* * * "Our trade with this country is greatly hampered by the absence of American houses, banks, etc. It is almost needless to say that all large houses have their American connections, but it is obvious that this does not supply the place of intercommunication between American houses in the United States and their branches here.

"One of our greatest trading difficulties might be more fully understood, generally advertised, and acquiesced in. I refer to the system of giving six, nine, or even twelve months' credit, to enable the merchant to realize at 'crop time.' Banks being limited, and none at all in some places, merchants are at the mercy of the money lenders, if they must pay their bills in sixty or ninety days, as with us, which means interest at the rate of 1 or 1½ per cent per month, and not

infrequently more. Rates of exchange could thus be more readily controlled, which, though seldom burdensome, sometimes reach an unreasonably high figure. The currency is upon a gold basis. The only notes that circulate are those of the local Bank of Venezuela.

“The Government of Venezuela, being desirous of obtaining information of the arrival of ships from foreign ports, and of the contents of the consular invoices of their respective cargoes, in order to avoid delay until the minister of finance at Caracas should receive duplicates of the invoices from the consuls abroad, by some subsequent ship, the President of the Republic decrees: ‘That from April 1, 1898, importers of foreign merchandise shall present to the custom-house with their manifests the original of their respective consular invoices, also a plain copy of them, which the customs authorities shall remit to the department of finance with a note stating that said copies have been compared with their respective originals, at most six days after the arrival of the ship.’”

Imports and exports from 1865 to 1898.—The following table shows the values of imports to and exports from Venezuela during twenty-three years:

Year.	Imports.	Exports.	Excess of exports.	Excess of imports.
1865	\$6,422,000	\$7,338,000	\$900,000	.....
1867	6,600,000	8,800,000	2,200,000	.....
1872	5,640,000	8,600,000	2,960,000	.....
1873	7,799,000	12,440,000	4,601,000	.....
1874	12,343,000	14,784,000	2,441,000	.....
1875	10,586,000	17,304,000	6,718,000	.....
1876	15,043,000	16,118,000	1,070,000	.....
1877	14,800,000	13,300,000	.....	\$1,500,000
1882	11,644,000	14,045,000	2,401,000	.....
1883	17,241,000	19,720,000	2,479,000	.....
1884	17,258,000	19,494,000	2,241,000	.....
1885	11,742,000	18,034,000	6,292,000	.....
1886	12,491,000	16,461,000	3,970,000	.....
1887	14,638,000	18,128,000	3,490,000	.....
1888	15,798,000	18,798,000	2,249,000	.....
1889	16,274,000	19,868,000	3,594,000	.....
1890	16,723,000	23,665,000	6,942,000	.....
1891	13,835,000	26,118,000	12,783,000	.....
1892	14,219,000	21,015,000	6,796,000	.....
1893	21,975,000	16,690,000	5,285,000	.....
1894	14,549,000	21,531,000	6,982,000	.....
1895	19,500,000	22,291,000	2,791,000	.....
1896	12,187,000	22,291,000	10,154,000	.....
1897	13,743,000	18,649,000	4,906,000	.....
1898	8,560,000	14,900,000	6,340,000	.....

^a Dollars.

During the twenty-three years taken into consideration in the foregoing table there has been only one year (1877) in which there was an excess of imports of \$1,500,000, the remaining twenty-two showing an aggregate excess of exports amounting to over \$110,000,000. This latter sum gives a yearly average of \$5,000,000 more exports than imports.

COMMERCE IN 1899.

CARACAS DISTRICT TRADE, 1899.

The following is an abstract from the report for 1899 of the British acting consul at Caracas:

Imports.—The import trade of the year 1899 might be considered as

divided into three periods—one including that from January to May, the other from June to August, the third from September to December.

During the first period commerce ran in the usual groove, the only difference from other years being a decrease in value.

During the second period merchants availed themselves of the respite given them before the application of the new tariff, and began to lay in an extraordinary stock of supplies of all kinds, especially of food stuffs and liquors, the articles most affected by the proposed tariff, and during the months of June, July, and August all vessels arriving at La Guaira and the other ports of the Republic brought large cargoes, and trade appeared to be flourishing; but the third period arrived when importation decreased to less than a third of the monthly average.

From the report of the vice-consul at La Guaira, it appears that there was a falling off in the quantity of all the usual articles imported. Merchandise (under which head is included cloth stuffs) showed a decrease of about 1,000 tons; hardware, about 100 tons; kerosene, 600 tons; cement, 1,500 tons; machinery, 150 tons; timber shows a slight increase of 700 tons, and railway material of 170 tons, while provisions and liquors have remained stationary.

In the report of the vice-consul at Puerto Cabello the values of foreign imports given point to a decline in the value of the trade in that part of the country amounting to nearly 25 per cent.

The conditions of agriculture during last year left much to be desired. The seasons were irregular, and the rains which come with the Venezuelan "invierno," usually from the end of April to October, not only did not put in an appearance until two months and a half after the usual time, but when they did come they were entirely insufficient, and the rainfall must have been about one-third of the annual average.

The different kinds of beans became scarce, and the prices rose; and corn (from which a kind of native bread for the laboring classes is made) was insufficient for the demand, and the price increased more than 100 per cent.

The number of cattle shipped from Puerto Cabello during the year was 39,083, and although the number shipped through Guanta is not available, it may be safely estimated at 25,000, so that it is calculated that the trade represented a value during last year of about \$3,000,000 to the country. If this could be kept up or increased, it is easily seen that it could soon rival the principal export of Venezuela—coffee.

Exports.—The exports, consisting chiefly of coffee, cacao, and hides, also suffered considerably in the general depression of the year. This trade is carried on chiefly with France and Germany, which take the largest quantity of coffee; the former takes most of the cacao, and the hides are shared between them and the United States and the

United Kingdom. Maracaibo, nevertheless, ships her coffee almost exclusively to the United States. From the figures furnished by the vice-consuls it appears that there has been a marked decrease in the quantities exported during 1899 from the three principal ports of the Republic.

According to the above-mentioned figures, the total coffee export in 1899 fell short of that of 1898 by about 13,000 tons. This represents an immense loss when it is considered that the whole crop of 1898, which was heavy, only amounted to 53,326 tons. The decrease is, therefore, 25 per cent.

Cotton goods imports of Venezuela, 1899-1898.—The following table, published in the Annual Statement of Trade of the United Kingdom, shows the value of British cotton goods imported into Venezuela in 1899-1898:

Cotton piece goods.	1899.	1898.
Unbleached.....	a \$72,345.39	a \$79,703.54
Bleached.....	560,226.61	524,681.76
Printed.....	551,934.10	520,525.71
Dyed.....	346,115.21	192,187.82
Total.....	1,530,621.31	1,317,098.77

a Dollars.

LA GUAIRA TRADE, 1899.

The following is an abstract of the report for 1899 of the British vice-consul at La Guaira:

Exports.—Although the prices for cacao have improved, the trade in this article has not increased as much as was expected, for the crop of the first half-year failed through the great drought, and also a part of the December crop. As the prices of cacao are at present very good, it has caused agriculturists to continue extending their plantations, and it is thought that in a short time cacao will take an equal place with coffee in importance as an article of export.

The export of coffee has decreased by 5,198 tons compared with 1898, and most of it has been shipped to Havre and Hamburg.

The price of hides has increased, the exports, however, being about the same as last year, the bulk being shipped to New York.

There has been no increase in the exportation of cacao compared with 1898, the greater part being shipped to France and Spain. There is always a demand in the European market for a good class of Venezuelan cacao.

Imports.—The exports from the United States to this country consist chiefly of flour, lard, rope, petroleum, etc. Nearly 44 per cent of the imports of Venezuela came from the United States.

Importation, with nationality of vessels, during the year 1899.

Month.	German.			American.			Danish.		
	Number of vessels.		Quantity.	Number of vessels.		Quantity.	Number of vessels.		Quantity.
	Steam.	Sailing.		Steam.	Sailing.		Steam.	Sailing.	
			<i>Kilos.</i>			<i>Kilos.</i>			<i>Kilos.</i>
January	2		751,087	2	1	1,144,757			
February	2		591,188	2	1	855,525			
March	2		842,617	2		1,118,339			
April	2	1	462,043	2		648,022			
May	2		461,825	3		1,254,657		1	471,975
June	2		496,201	2		1,189,006			
July	2		573,080	2	1				
August	2		875,593	2		1,754,903			
September	2		1,955,562	2		1,596,596			
October	2			2		356,685			
November	2			2		1,717,791		1	727,260
December	2		119,320	1		1,824,606			
Total	24	2	8,250,155	25	3	19,860,477		2	1,199,235

Month.	Spanish.			French.			Dutch.		
	Number of vessels.		Quantity.	Number of vessels.		Quantity.	Number of vessels.		Quantity.
	Steam.	Sailing.		Steam.	Sailing.		Steam.	Sailing.	
			<i>Kilos.</i>			<i>Kilos.</i>			<i>Kilos.</i>
January				2		134,090	3		163,807
February				3		220,375	1		65,556
March	1		290	4		206,822	2		131,988
April	1		24,103	3		193,720	3		104,765
May	1		4,235	3		156,731	2		85,139
June	1		9,267	4		227,672	2		125,837
July	1		7,196	3		256,112	2		204,227
August	1		142,530	4		487,855	2		232,456
September	1		994	4		45,153	2		106,884
October	1		38,096	3		101,340	2		26,521
November				4		129,517	2		24,130
December	1		19,327	3		89,713	3		45,264
Total	9		246,038	40		2,259,040	26		1,316,576

Exportation, with nationality of vessels, during the year 1899.

Month.	Steam.				
	Amer- ican.	German.	Spanish.	French.	Dutch.
January	3	1	.....	2	2
February	2	2	.....	2	2
March	2	3	1	2	3
April	2	2	1	2	2
May	2	4	1	2	2
June	2	3	1	2	3
July	2	2	.....	2	1
August	2	1	1	4	3
September	2	1	.....	3	3
October	2	1	.....	3	2
November	2	1	.....	3	5
December	2	2	1	2	3
Total	25	23	6	29	31

Month.	Steam.		Venezuelan.		Coffee.
	British.	Italian.	Steam.	Sailing.	
January	2	1	.....	.....	<i>Kilos.</i> 1,254,106
February	2	1	1	.....	1,251,099
March	2	1	2	.....	1,956,910
April	2	1	1	.....	1,247,970
May	2	1	.....	2	1,675,743
June .....	.....	.....	1	.....	709,385
July .....	.....	1	1	1	91,082
August .....	.....	1	1	.....	49,110
September	1	1	.....	1	43,193
October	1	1	1	.....	81,146
November .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	57,855
December	3	1	.....	2	193,234
Total	16	10	8	6	8,610,885

Month.	Cacao.	Hides.	Sundries.	Total.	
				Number of vessels.	Quantity.
January	<i>Kilos.</i> 323,084	<i>Kilos.</i> 78,751	<i>Kilos.</i> 50,683	11	<i>Kilos.</i> 1,706,576
February	569,366	50,001	33,706	12	1,904,172
March	935,760	54,947	27,787	16	2,975,404
April	897,426	70,139	18,289	13	2,233,824
May	923,902	69,263	17,838	16	2,686,746
June	512,064	72,099	18,363	12	1,311,911
July	592,675	87,879	65,186	10	836,772
August	196,476	166,801	16,666	13	429,053
September	113,221	55,760	29,145	12	241,319
October	43,519	31,416	16,183	11	172,264
November	51,434	108,899	22,782	12	240,970
December	22,395	133,782	16,235	16	365,646
Total	5,181,272	979,737	332,813	154	15,104,657

Exportation, with nationality of vessels, during the year 1899—Continued.

Month.	British.			Italian.		Norwegian.		Russian.		Swedish.		Venezuelan.		Total.	
	Number of vessels.		Quantity.	Num-ber of vessels (steam).	Quantity.	Number of vessels.		Num-ber of vessels (sail- ing).	Quantity.	Num-ber of vessels (sail- ing).	Quantity.	Num-ber of vessels (steam).	Quantity.	Number of vessels.	
	Steam.	Sailing.				Steam.	Sailing.							Steam.	Sailing.
January	5		Kilos. 313,736	1	Kilos. 183,295				Kilos.		Kilos.		Kilos.	15	
February	5		675,967	1	116,943									14	1
March	6	1	450,558	1	133,229							1	899	2	2
April	4		655,315	2	118,677									19	
May	5		186,679	1	106,300		1	1	432,890	1	611,030			17	4
June	6		283,065	1	135,775		1	1	650,613	1	672,945			18	2
July	6		636,168	1	153,556		2		1,192,625		426,300			18	4
August	6		304,121	2	344,150	1			1,289,269			1	2,153	18	
September	6	1	533,115	1	74,710		2		594,013			1	6,219	20	2
October	3		385,700	1	68,177									17	
November	4		229,860	1										13	1
December	3		157,885				1		484,155					17	
			67,716	1										13	1
			76,480												
Total	58	2	4,954,885	12	1,484,802	1	7	2	4,643,065	2	1,283,975	3	9,271	198	19
									426,300	1					45,983,813

Importation, exportation, and coasting trade during the year 1899.

FOREIGN IMPORTATION.

Month.	Ships.			Merchandise.		Fardware.	
	General cargo.	Coal.	Timber.	Packages.	Kilos.	Packages.	Kilos.
January.....	15	1	.....	14,815	740,536	2,426	128,481
February.....	14	1	1	16,121	945,278	8,886	198,859
March.....	19	.....	.....	11,770	868,103	6,185	187,472
April.....	17	4	.....	8,399	495,474	1,286	69,468
May.....	17	2	.....	8,083	642,118	6,466	164,654
June.....	18	4	.....	10,582	863,450	3,984	161,647
July.....	18	2	.....	14,201	857,787	3,107	119,477
August.....	20	2	.....	23,080	1,676,173	9,329	272,356
September.....	17	.....	.....	6,909	265,869	3,963	106,064
October.....	18	1	.....	4,220	220,654	2,717	107,071
November.....	16	1	.....	3,812	277,757	2,158	161,668
December.....	14	1	.....	4,440	243,037	889	39,076
Total.....	198	19	1	125,882	8,096,231	51,396	1,718,198

Month.	Provisions and liquors.		Oils other than kerosene.		Kerosene.		Timber.	
	Pack-ages.	Kilos.	Pack-ages.	Kilos.	Pack-ages.	Kilos.	Pack-ages.	Kilos.
January.....	21,714	1,257,182	659	35,841	1,297	49,514	3,185	93,625
February.....	21,821	1,222,010	914	31,218	3,760	132,769	1,117	648,022
March.....	21,438	1,229,331	686	31,008	4,725	167,082	980	24,299
April.....	18,516	1,154,131	813	40,871	3,822	134,155	1,276	79,127
May.....	24,674	1,459,547	588	29,711	8,818	308,789	690	59,610
June.....	27,919	1,547,464	1,021	58,390	5,371	188,284	1,110	21,589
July.....	35,338	2,107,334	957	47,561	1,730	60,561	613	15,719
August.....	73,847	3,840,095	2,124	92,618	364	12,995	628	62,175
September.....	4,924	277,963	73	6,386	10,130	356,123	.....	.....
October.....	29,772	1,636,258	125	6,632	4,177	145,536	8	2,275
November.....	30,466	1,665,941	288	22,538	6,062	212,858	894	15,261
December.....	12,957	875,417	247	12,137	1,933	68,336	83	4,969
Total.....	322,881	18,272,698	8,445	409,406	52,184	1,836,002	10,034	1,026,661

Month.	Cement.		Coal.	Machinery.		Railway materials.		Total.
	Pack-ages.	Kilos.	Kilos.	Pack-ages.	Kilos.	Pack-ages.	Kilos.	Kilos.
January.....	2,012	324,903	860,565	285	55,169	2	411	3,546,227
February.....	977	155,203	468,322	179	55,373	260	29,851	3,886,900
March.....	1,405	260,060	300,970	67	18,461	1,076	119,036	3,225,817
April.....	1,000	113,000	1,385,323	161	41,179	251	143,978	4,256,212
May.....	600	89,150	1,353,558	88	12,371	321	110,644	4,210,152
June.....	1,906	318,343	2,643,105	111	24,375	23	8,358	5,820,905
July.....	1,563	276,115	1,298,804	87	14,878	164	21,782	4,820,018
August.....	700	125,640	1,118,402	39	7,922	116	25,193	7,233,485
September.....	635	107,598	9,082	32	4,043	208	10,592	1,144,840
October.....	900	156,210	590,396	174	26,082	31	4,105	2,895,169
November.....	50	8,790	799,800	20	2,174	130	16,653	3,183,440
December.....	100	17,580	437,465	11	781	27	2,915	1,701,653
Total.....	12,248	1,972,592	11,845,798	1,254	262,708	2,609	493,534	45,933,818

FOREIGN EXPORTATION.

Goods.			Packages.	Kilos.
Coffee.....	.....	bags.	150,797	8,610,835
Cacao.....	.....	do.	95,679	5,181,272
Hides.....	.....	.....	88,972	979,737
Sundries.....	.....	.....	6,437	382,813
Total.....	.....	.....	341,885	15,104,657

Importation, exportation, and coasting trade during the year 1899—Continued.

COASTING TRADE.

Articles.	Imports.	Exports.
	<i>Kilos.</i>	<i>Kilos.</i>
Merchandise.....	15, 278, 980	5, 133, 498
Timber.....	2, 126, 466	
Coal.....	93, 064	
Total.....	17, 498, 510	5, 133, 498

Exportation of coffee through the port of La Guaira for the year 1899.

Month.	United Kingdom.	United States.	Germany.	France.	Holland.	Italy.	Spain.	Total.
	<i>Bags.</i>	<i>Bags.</i>	<i>Bags.</i>	<i>Bags.</i>	<i>Bags.</i>	<i>Bags.</i>	<i>Bags.</i>	<i>Bags.</i>
January.....	3	4, 623	6, 685	4, 396	4, 703	1, 175		21, 565
February.....	250	6, 633	7, 949	2, 785	4, 245	223		22, 066
March.....	447	8, 752	17, 568	3, 046	3, 787	761		34, 361
April.....		10, 616	7, 532	2, 659		691		22, 133
May.....	1, 062	11, 165	12, 737	2, 653	1, 126			28, 743
June.....		5, 641	2, 422	4, 061	477			12, 591
July.....		335	359	815	80	512		1, 601
August.....		498	80		311		50	939
September.....		409	17	265	189	19		899
October.....		17	960	268		147		1, 392
November.....		440	147	298	91			971
December.....	235	781	578	578	974	184	66	3, 396
Total.....	1, 997	49, 910	57, 034	21, 309	16, 618	3, 712	116	150, 696

Exportation of cacao through the port of La Guaira during the year 1899.

Month.	United Kingdom.	United States.	Germany.	France.	Holland.	Italy.	Spain.	Total.
	<i>Bags.</i>	<i>Bags.</i>	<i>Bags.</i>	<i>Bags.</i>	<i>Bags.</i>	<i>Bags.</i>	<i>Bags.</i>	<i>Bags.</i>
January.....	42	104	825	4, 672		13		5, 656
February.....		291	3, 359	5, 656	1, 096	10		10, 411
March.....		665	9, 230	5, 862	1, 134	106	50	17, 047
April.....	270	328	5, 149	6, 371	4, 534	10		16, 662
May.....	1, 954	229	5, 993	4, 379	1, 317			13, 872
June.....		159	2, 420	5, 874	768		171	9, 382
July.....			1, 821	8, 556	482	124		10, 983
August.....		39	239	5, 116	64		36	5, 484
September.....				1, 982	57			2, 039
October.....		6		1, 000				1, 006
November.....			2	830	50			882
December.....		7	8	288	41		43	387
Total.....	2, 266	1, 828	29, 046	50, 586	9, 522	263	300	93, 811

Exportation of hides through the port of La Guaira for the year 1899.

Month.	United Kingdom.	United States.	Germany.	France.	Holland.	Italy.	Total.
	<i>Number.</i>	<i>Number.</i>	<i>Number.</i>	<i>Number.</i>	<i>Number.</i>	<i>Number.</i>	<i>Number.</i>
January.....		4, 565	788				5, 353
February.....		4, 472			173		4, 645
March.....		2, 494	188				2, 682
April.....	1, 758	3, 983			488		6, 229
May.....		6, 484			285		6, 769
June.....		7, 277	32		253		7, 562
July.....		6, 568	296		438	32	7, 394
August.....		6, 723			254		6, 977
September.....		4, 815	403		207		5, 425
October.....		2, 511			347		2, 858
November.....		9, 607		166			9, 773
December.....	254	9, 264			3, 450		12, 968
Total.....	2, 012	68, 753	1, 707	166	5, 896	32	78, 565

Exportation of goat and deer skins through the port of La Guaira during the year 1899.

Month.	United Kingdom.	United States.	Holland.	Total.
	<i>Bales.</i>	<i>Bales.</i>	<i>Bales.</i>	<i>Bales.</i>
January.....		14		14
February.....		15		15
March.....		15		15
April.....	4	38		42
May.....		69	3	72
June.....		121		121
July.....		136		136
August.....		74		74
September.....		68		68
October.....		17		17
November.....		34		34
December.....		27	15	42
Total.....	4	628	18	650

Foreign importations through the port of La Guaira, 1899, with countries from which goods were shipped.

Month.	Germany.		Belgium.		Colombia.		Spain.		United States of America.	
	Pack-ages.	Kilos.	Pack-ages.	Kilos.	Pack-ages.	Kilos.	Pack-ages.	Kilos.	Pack-ages.	Kilos.
January.....	16,614	718,976	597	51,061			2,453	105,023	19,226	2,017,642
February.....	16,829	573,489					2,551	120,086	19,319	1,764,407
March.....	13,761	827,121	206	324,616	3	247	3,267	141,716	21,646	1,254,947
April.....	9,219	442,321	7	532	9	3,684	3,230	144,496	18,285	1,213,108
May.....	8,009	480,066					1,823	71,559	30,420	1,759,138
June.....	10,841	558,685	210	27,868	3	160	4,823	197,780	25,490	2,462,054
July.....	17,943	849,981					2,425	105,124	27,350	1,724,987
August.....	43,479	1,904,263			5	379	9,357	332,055	36,357	2,561,149
September.....	3,508	118,962	55	4,666	1	59	721	46,859	17,294	6,625,379
October.....	3,855	200,842					467	26,394	34,540	1,921,540
November.....	5,930	341,528			1	97	2,555	57,350	31,301	2,549,962
December.....	4,683	135,426					1,234	45,084	12,718	891,933
Total....	154,671	7,146,613	1,075	408,738	22	4,525	34,906	1,393,475	293,941	20,746,246

Month.	France.		Holland.		Great Britain.		Italy.		Total.	
	Pack-ages.	Kilos.	Pack-ages.	Kilos.	Pack-ages.	Kilos.	Pack-ages.	Kilos.	Pack-ages.	Kilos.
January.....	2,452	173,594	1,873	146,447	1,624	227,282	1,066	106,252	45,896	3,546,227
February.....	2,987	180,067	943	67,512	10,235	1,126,525	671	54,824	53,535	3,886,900
March.....	2,576	156,469	1,718	131,988	4,539	331,598	911	57,115	48,627	3,225,817
April.....	1,782	119,686	1,426	104,765	808	2,165,418	763	62,800	35,524	4,256,212
May.....	1,749	133,619	1,124	85,139	6,480	1,606,643	718	73,988	50,323	4,210,152
June.....	1,963	142,299	1,653	125,840	5,807	2,227,671	1,187	87,553	51,977	5,829,905
July.....	3,457	251,705	2,563	204,227	3,263	1,595,543	759	88,501	57,760	4,820,018
August.....	6,481	432,215	3,227	232,455	9,641	1,652,294	1,630	118,675	110,177	7,233,485
September.....	1,264	44,042	719	58,787	2,959	216,825	353	34,261	26,874	1,144,840
October.....	802	69,006	366	26,521	2,053	641,540	41	9,326	42,124	2,895,169
November.....	982	55,432	311	24,295	1,102	67,716	1,198	87,060	43,380	3,188,440
December.....	524	38,160	605	51,643	551	513,273	877	26,184	20,687	1,701,658
Total....	27,019	1,796,284	16,528	1,259,619	49,067	12,372,278	9,664	806,039	586,883	45,933,818

PUERTO CABELLO TRADE, 1899.

The United States consul at Puerto Cabello reported as follows the imports and exports of his district for the calendar year 1899:

The majority of the exports from Puerto Cabello go to Cuba and Europe. The value of the exports in 1899 was \$3,303,546 in United States currency, of which Cuba received \$1,301,779; France, \$1,097,280; Germany, \$364,916; other European countries, \$134,114, and the United States, \$405,457.

The imports were valued at \$1,193,271. These were received from the following countries: United States, \$365,828; England, \$336,340; Germany, \$253,515; Holland, \$91,011; France, \$81,644; Spain, \$33,853, and Italy, \$31,086.

IMPORTS.^a

Country.	1899.	1898.
United Kingdom.....	£131,447	£102,700
Germany.....	64,904	78,440
United States.....	61,351	163,910
France.....	35,707	38,910
Holland.....	20,333	19,020
Italy.....	11,051	6,950
Spain.....	898	12,690
Trinidad.....	8	
Sundry.....		2,490
Total.....	325,184	425,140

EXPORTS.

Figures for exports compare as follows: ^a

Articles.	1899.	1898.
	<i>Kilos.</i>	<i>Kilos.</i>
Coffee.....	11,891,030	13,024,633
Cacao.....	495,921	325,547
Hides.....	437,760	530,077
Skins.....	110,245	128,981
Quinia.....		1,047
Coprah.....	201,685	127,220

^a According to British vice-consul's report (1899).

MARACAIBO TRADE, 1899.

The following figures are taken from the report of the British vice-consul at Maracaibo for 1899:

Coffee.—The export of 1899 of the principal article, which is coffee, is far behind that of 1898. The amount exported was 334,328 bags (20,268 tons), against 441,579 bags (26,494 tons) in 1898, and 422,313 bags (25,486 tons) in 1897. The average price of coffee per 100 pounds f. o. b., Maracaibo, may be calculated at 7.88 pesos (£1.5s.), at 8.55 pesos (£1.7s.) for 1898, and at 12.75 pesos (£2.4s.) for 1897. The value of the coffee exported amounted to 7,015,000 pesos (£1,111,287) in 1897 to 4,875,000 pesos (£772,584) in 1898, and to 3,429,250 pesos (£543,248) in 1899.

Hides.—The export of hides shows a small decrease. In 1899, 30,221 hides were exported, while in 1898 there was an export of 32,886 hides. The declared value of export was as follows: In 1898 it amounted to 119,190.50 pesos (£18,882), and in 1899 to 129,130.30 pesos (£20,456).

Skins.—The export of skins shows a considerable increase; in 1899, 107,217 kilos were exported, against 83,797 kilos in 1898.

Balsam copaiba.—The export of balsam copaiba shows a small increase against 1898. In 1899, 42,732 kilos. were exported, representing a value of 33,649 pesos (£5,330), against 35,778 kilos in 1898.

Fish sounds.—Fish sounds are becoming more and more in demand, and a good deal of attention is paid to them. In 1899 the export amounted to 39,261 kilos, with a value of 17,227 pesos (£2,570).

Cacao.—The returns of 1899 show a declared value of 46,063 pesos (£7,300), against £10,700 in 1898.

Quina bark.—The export of quina bark becomes less from year to year. In 1899 it amounted only to 12,778 kilos, with a value of 2,118 pesos (£335. 10s.).

Dividivi.—The export of dividivi is increasing. In 1899, 1,766 tons were exported, with a value of 41,124 pesos (£6,514).

Wood.—The export of wood is increasing again; the principal kinds exported are: Boxwood, cedar, ebony, fustic, lignum vitæ, mahogany, and different hardwoods. The value of exportation in 1899 amounted to 57,383 pesos (£9,090) on 6,506 tons.

Rubber and asphaltum.—Rubber and asphaltum are attracting more and more attention, and the export is increasing.

Exports from Maracaibo during the year 1899.

Month.	Fustic.	Dividivi.	Coffee.		Cacao.	
	Kilos.	Kilos.	Bags.	Kilos.	Bags.	Kilos.
January	418, 447	296, 728	35, 219	2, 129, 076	47	2, 894
February	484, 770	.....	29, 391	1, 792, 684	112	5, 034
March	912, 657	8, 521	44, 624	2, 725, 114	274	12, 411
April	505, 239	63, 480	35, 772	2, 179, 924	487	32, 288
May	811, 606	268, 830	47, 634	2, 882, 164	47	2, 330
June	134, 000	14, 202	35, 793	2, 190, 064	133	4, 918
July	511, 454	214, 896	14, 356	857, 360	46	2, 096
August	858, 008	503, 311	14, 099	844, 836	704	34, 327
September	883, 305	.....	14, 001	841, 770	596	29, 841
October	313, 894	.....	14, 751	806, 670	.....	.....
November	532, 739	384, 020	33, 334	2, 026, 139	.....	.....
December	140, 096	12, 192	15, 354	902, 889	184	7, 512
Total	6, 506, 217	1, 766, 180	334, 328	20, 268, 690	2, 630	123, 151
Total 1898	6, 550, 465	802, 027	441, 579	26, 494, 530	3, 007	129, 385

Month.	Quina Bark.		Copaiba.		Hides.		Goatskins.	
	Packages.	Kilos.	Packages.	Kilos.	Number.	Kilos.	Packages.	Kilos.
January	53	2, 380	62	2, 551	1, 719	18, 096	12	1, 001
February .....	.....	.....	41	1, 706	461	4, 678	52	4, 302
March	42	1, 709	36	1, 508	2, 234	23, 371	113	9, 540
April	24	1, 039	40	1, 679	3, 966	47, 779	80	6, 516
May	32	1, 617	100	4, 181	4, 413	49, 767	128	16, 813
June	70	2, 101	200	8, 362	1, 710	19, 105	87	7, 618
July	54	2, 537	59	2, 500	1, 639	15, 988	103	8, 514
August	6	274	150	8, 754	2, 319	21, 746	129	11, 074
September	23	1, 121	161	8, 383	2, 206	21, 589	117	10, 693
October .....	.....	.....	30	1, 165	2, 119	22, 804	54	5, 287
November .....	.....	.....	27	1, 049	5, 000	55, 486	148	14, 911
December .....	.....	.....	21	894	2, 435	22, 903	84	7, 285
Total	304	12, 778	927	42, 732	30, 221	323, 314	1, 107	103, 544
Total 1898	270	12, 047	869	35, 778	32, 886	382, 242	1, 004	81, 241

Exports from Maracaibo during the year 1899—Continued.

Month.	Deerskins.		Fish sounds.		Brown sugar.		Asphalt.	
	Packages.	Kilos.	Packages.	Kilos.	Packages.	Kilos.	Packages.	Kilos.
January.....	2	131	47	4,376	951	38,570		
February.....	1	55	92	8,705	868	37,180		
March.....			71	6,140	963	39,658		
April.....	3	316	36	3,328	774	33,764		
May.....	7	621	51	4,469	1,340	50,984		
June.....	6	95	26	2,548	741	31,007		
July.....	3	299	4	368	178	5,520	204	38,791
August.....	4	320	36	3,305	1,204	47,924	200	40,500
September.....	8	710	32	3,051	632	21,076		
October.....	2	197	29	2,458	520	17,020		
November.....	8	713	5	408	1,178	38,812	2	40
December.....	2	206	1	105	894	35,083		
Total.....	46	3,663	430	39,261	10,243	396,548	406	79,331
Total 1898.....	34	2,556	585	40,171	11,132	438,375		

CIUDAD BOLIVAR TRADE 1899.

The following is an abstract from the report of the British vice-consul at Ciudad Bolivar:

A decree has been issued declaring the import of mining machinery, supplies, etc., to be free of duty in accordance with the mining code.

Dynamite.—The French company that has the sole right to sell dynamite in Venezuela charges \$30 (about £6) per box of 50 pounds of dynamite supplied to the mines. This is double what it would cost to import the same article from the United Kingdom or Germany.

Iron mines.—The valuable iron-ore mines situated at Imataca on the Lower Orinoco have now passed to an American company, which is stated to be preparing for their development. A trial cargo was shipped to the United States toward the end of the year.

Chamber of commerce.—Early in 1899 a chamber of commerce was formed in this city.

Return of principal articles of export from Ciudad Bolivar during the years 1898–99.

Articles.	1898.		1899.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
Copaiba oil.....kilos..	11,284	£1,312	25,291	£2,680
Cacao.....do....	40,920	2,235	18,440	987
Coffee.....do....	118,657	5,862	160,678	3,298
Rubber (Para).....do....	70,502	16,398	79,586	25,579
Rubber (Balata).....do....	509,461	52,740	746,885	94,207
Hides.....do....	1,338,238	68,255	1,215,474	70,267
Deerskins.....do....	27,917	1,416	39,340	2,779
Gold bullion.....do....	1,218	111,068	1,316	120,975
Tonga beans.....do....	107,111	19,247	20,780	2,910
Tobacco.....do....	267,718	10,782	99,612	3,167
Heron feathers (Egret).....do....	2,839	20,708	2,534	20,830
Cattle.....number..	8,944	42,062	9,860	43,915
Live animals (horses, etc.).....do....	182	679	411	1,638
Other articles.....kilos..	58,047	1,244	31,097	2,083
Total.....		354,008		395,510



PORT OF CIUDAD BOLÍVAR.
(Courtesy of Mr. A. Stockman.)

COMMERCE IN 1900.

CARACAS DISTRICT TRADE, 1900.

The following is an abstract from the report of the British acting consul at Caracas for 1900:

Imports.—From the reports of the vice-consuls it appears that there has been a decrease in the importation of every class of goods with the exception of coal and kerosene.

Exports.—The figures shown in the tables of exports are more satisfactory for the principal products of Venezuela. Coffee, cacao, and hides have all increased considerably in the total quantity, although at Maracaibo coffee showed a slight falling off. The improvement, however, is not a monetary one, for the price of coffee remains very low, and although that of cacao is fairly good, the quantity produced is as yet insufficient to replace coffee.

Cattle.—The cattle business has declined very much, as seen from the number exported at Puerto Cabello, viz, 18,774 head against 39,083 head in 1899, or nearly 50 per cent.

LA GUAIRA TRADE, 1900.

The British acting vice-consul reports as follows (abstract):

Imports.—Imports from the United States were 1,186 tons less than the previous year. This represents a decline of 5 per cent. Imports from other countries show, however, a greater decrease, for from Germany 1,365 tons less were received, which means a decline of 19 per cent. France sent 25 per cent and Italy also 25 per cent less than in 1899. The difference in the bulk of trade with the United Kingdom is also represented by a high figure, as 2,559 tons, or about 20 per cent less than the total of the previous year were imported, and as the goods received from the United Kingdom are cottons and hardware, the loss in value to British trade must be considerable.

Exports.—The figures relative to exports are more favorable, for they show in quantity an increase in the three principal branches of the trade, viz, coffee, cacao, and hides. In the former article there were shipped in 1900, 25,144 bags (1,690 tons) more than in the previous year, and in cacao 11,948 bags (equal to 585 tons). In hides the excess of 23,555 represents an increase of $26\frac{1}{2}$ per cent on the number exported in 1899.

Imports by merchandise at La Guaira, 1900.

Month.	Ships.			Merchandise.		Hardware.	
	General cargo.	Coal.	Timber.	Packages.	Kilos.	Packages.	Kilos.
January .	15	1	.....	4,062	293,287	1,125	47,850
February .	11	2	.....	4,566	208,721	262	17,085
March .	16	4	.....	9,228	400,345	2,146	74,083
April .	15	2	.....	4,599	291,488	1,199	33,421
May .	18	1	.....	5,804	441,486	2,174	89,284
June .	14	.....	.....	5,845	407,220	2,938	66,312
July .	19	3	.....	9,659	629,333	1,401	64,029
August .	16	1	.....	8,279	621,517	3,420	110,903
September .	14	.....	.....	11,439	575,780	1,791	70,838
October .	16	1	.....	12,350	915,891	5,232	167,286
November .	15	.....	.....	13,488	1,031,261	7,342	404,138
December .	18	2	1	14,776	959,860	2,225	119,486
Total .	187	17	1	104,095	6,776,189	31,255	1,264,715

Month.	Provisions and liquors.		Oils other than kerosene.		Kerosene.	
	Packages.	Kilos.	Packages.	Kilos.	Packages.	Kilos.
January .	21,260	1,365,723	281	15,791	4,406	155,279
February .	6,976	389,771	233	11,638	1,760	61,176
March .	14,139	933,543	251	12,522	3,926	139,640
April .	17,692	1,124,476	83	10,296	4,123	144,717
May .	26,955	1,431,609	947	43,477	6,952	243,010
June .	17,592	960,268	1,025	49,880	3,792	133,406
July .	31,528	1,535,007	744	31,690	4,187	146,918
August .	18,486	1,091,776	899	40,523	5,726	200,733
September .	21,022	1,185,370	260	13,473	7,497	272,760
October .	30,260	1,718,665	905	45,091	8,784	305,220
November .	24,239	1,349,387	300	15,619	2,494	87,608
December .	20,821	1,226,147	1,204	54,658	4,206	145,877
Total .	250,940	14,311,742	7,132	344,658	54,843	1,936,344

Month.	Timber.		Cement.		Coal.
	Packages.	Kilos.	Packages.	Kilos.	Kilos.
January .	1,543	35,676	.....	.....	651,630
February .	108	2,907	27	3,834	1,234,716
March .	.....	.....	200	28,370	3,176,683
April .	490	12,000	1,310	192,767	1,288,865
May .	1,539	68,081	361	62,086	578,345
June .	50	15,050	410	67,600	4,889
July .	616	76,479	2,475	399,699	2,853,027
August .	358	54,121	520	91,640	541,708
September .	50	12,960	380	67,650	.....
October .	451	137,336	2,202	338,295	706,334
November .	454	96,268	1,275	217,470	148,101
December .	1,800	597,960	1,931	311,305	1,099,520
Total .	7,459	1,108,828	11,091	1,780,716	12,278,818

Month.	Machinery.		Railway materials.		Total.	
	Packages.	Kilos.	Packages.	Kilos.	Packages.	Kilos.
January .	29	2,338	72	15,956	32,778	2,583,590
February .	18	2,705	212	30,174	14,152	1,962,727
March .	118	11,587	59	7,554	30,067	4,784,327
April .	29	4,987	234	22,794	29,719	3,120,811
May .	31	1,287	251	9,775	45,014	2,968,440
June .	22	2,502	792	18,759	32,466	1,725,886
July .	39	4,968	71	12,948	50,720	5,754,088
August .	56	15,926	47	8,625	37,801	2,777,472
September .	45	4,821	132	31,509	42,616	2,235,161
October .	186	23,803	137	12,832	57,506	4,270,253
November .	48	6,924	69	16,834	49,709	3,373,609
December .	59	12,856	327	22,220	47,349	4,549,880
Total .	679	94,634	2,403	209,480	469,897	40,106,184

Exports by merchandise at La Guaira, 1900.

Goods.	Packages.	Kilos.
Bags of coffee	175, 941	10, 800, 565
Bags of cacao	107, 627	5, 766, 160
Hides	112, 527	1, 075, 028
Sundries	18, 964	631, 524
Total		17, 773, 277

La Guaira coasting trade, 1900.

Articles.	Importation.	Exportation.
	Kilos.	Kilos.
Merchandise	15, 818, 029	5, 286, 302
Timber	668, 444	
Coal	18, 060	
Total	16, 504, 533	5, 286, 302

Foreign importation of La Guaira, 1900, showing countries from which the goods are shipped.

Month.	Germany.		Colombia.		Denmark.		Spain.		United States of America.	
	Pkgs.	Kilos.	Pkgs.	Kilos.	Pkgs.	Kilos.	Pkgs.	Kilos.	Pkgs.	Kilos.
January	8, 298	125, 596					2, 111	86, 977	25, 166	1, 546, 599
February	5, 113	168, 122					983	52, 766	6, 600	494, 532
March	7, 926	209, 742	3	244	1	18	1, 061	42, 604	16, 710	1, 470, 814
April	5, 384	243, 766					780	28, 478	19, 528	1, 722, 252
May	10, 863	475, 633	2	93			5, 533	237, 317	22, 208	1, 713, 517
June	5, 998	313, 080					3, 392	126, 754	14, 890	883, 222
July	18, 388	874, 623					5, 300	183, 493	19, 148	3, 071, 097
August	4, 842	191, 150	16	2, 498			3, 163	120, 803	19, 662	1, 242, 334
September	14, 349	557, 614	2	55			1, 128	41, 714	20, 400	1, 059, 890
October	15, 549	823, 648	2	138			4, 411	174, 027	29, 011	2, 001, 755
November	16, 264	1, 025, 379			5	180	3, 521	106, 444	20, 069	1, 514, 417
December	14, 816	772, 919					4, 946	189, 599	19, 929	2, 840, 048
Total	122, 730	5, 781, 252	25	3, 028	6	198	36, 249	1, 389, 976	233, 316	19, 560, 477

Month.	France.		Holland.		United Kingdom.		Italy.		Total.	
	Pkgs.	Kilos.	Pkgs.	Kilos.	Pkgs.	Kilos.	Pkgs.	Kilos.	Pkgs.	Kilos.
January	676	53, 879	479	39, 265	639	701, 517	409	29, 697	32, 778	2, 583, 530
February	466	30, 663	270	18, 239	390	1, 170, 069	380	28, 336	14, 152	1, 962, 727
March	806	47, 861	981	78, 477	2, 040	2, 891, 642	549	42, 925	30, 067	4, 784, 327
April	1, 732	223, 386	1, 359	94, 376	1, 006	808, 553			29, 719	3, 120, 811
May	1, 419	96, 312	1, 948	113, 640	1, 700	265, 534	1, 346	66, 394	45, 014	2, 968, 440
June	1, 326	88, 971	2, 168	128, 413	3, 203	101, 198	1, 489	89, 268	32, 466	1, 725, 886
July	2, 012	139, 557	4, 546	418, 541	705	1, 031, 077	621	40, 600	50, 720	5, 754, 088
August	2, 214	119, 264	3, 271	180, 482	3, 672	882, 186	961	38, 756	37, 801	2, 777, 472
September	1, 694	124, 127	2, 557	164, 973	1, 503	218, 617	983	73, 171	42, 616	2, 235, 161
October	1, 457	114, 199	1, 108	72, 356	4, 674	1, 000, 603	1, 294	83, 527	57, 506	4, 270, 253
November	2, 627	177, 717	2, 433	189, 715	4, 727	355, 852	73	4, 905	49, 709	3, 873, 609
December	2, 351	178, 369	501	55, 553	2, 966	391, 360	1, 840	122, 032	47, 349	4, 549, 880
Total	18, 780	1, 389, 406	21, 621	1, 549, 030	27, 225	9, 813, 208	9, 945	619, 610	469, 897	40, 106, 184

La Guaira exportation, with nationality of vessels, during the year 1900.

Month.	Coffee.	Cacao.	Hides.	Sundries.	Number of vessels.	Total.
	<i>Kilos.</i>	<i>Kilos.</i>	<i>Kilos.</i>	<i>Kilos.</i>		<i>Kilos.</i>
January.....	363,694	184,917	126,343	38,669	10	713,623
February.....	1,356,428	354,885	135,975	38,358	14	1,938,646
March.....	1,738,344	573,178	108,390	39,529	12	2,449,441
April.....	1,597,407	794,725	82,048	36,088	18	2,510,263
May.....	2,024,348	1,171,096	119,184	52,059	18	3,366,687
June.....	1,281,857	600,477	109,679	26,080	18	2,018,043
July.....	884,785	649,684	92,785	85,245	12	1,712,499
August.....	87,503	533,149	46,017	28,953	17	690,622
September.....	53,813	292,088	44,806	21,884	14	412,541
October.....	77,822	228,298	82,121	18,201	11	405,937
November.....	294,289	132,207	69,780	186,428	14	682,699
December.....	542,775	251,461	62,906	15,135	14	872,276
Total.....	10,300,565	5,766,160	1,075,028	681,524	162	17,778,277

The following are the official figures of imports at La Guaira during the year 1900:

From—	Value.	
	Currency.	Sterling.
	<i>Bolivars.</i>	<i>£ s. d.</i>
United Kingdom.....	3,811,116.44	131,133 6 6
United States.....	1,970,389.10	78,085 4 3
Germany.....	1,488,247.07	58,940 9 6
France.....	832,497.21	32,970 3 9
Holland.....	730,352.92	28,924 17 4
Spain.....	190,824.88	7,557 8 5
Italy.....	79,088.97	3,132 2 5
Total.....	8,602,516.54	340,698 12 2

NOTE.—25.25 bolivars = £1 sterling; 5 bolivars = the United States dollar.

PUERTO CABELLO TRADE, 1900.

The following is an abstract from the report of the British vice-consul at Puerto Cabello for 1900:

Exports.—The export figures are as follows:

Articles.	Quantity.	
	<i>Kilos.</i>	<i>Tons. cwt. qrs. lbs.</i>
Coffee.....	14,995,724	12,994 0 1 19
Cacao.....	525,187	455 1 2 17
Hides.....	636,363	551 8 1 18
Skins.....	836,128	724 10 1 11
Copra.....	53,692	46 10 1 7
Lumber.....	817,145	274 16 0 24
Dividivi.....	25,170	21 16 0 23
Quinia.....	143	0 2 1 28
Horns.....	3,988	3 9 0 12
Seeds.....	50,933	44 2 2 19
Sundries.....	64,605	55 19 2 14
Total.....	17,509,078	15,171 17 2 11
Cattle.....head..	18,774	

NOTE.—51.52 kilos.=1 cwt.

Puerto Cabello imports, December, 1900.—The following table shows the importations through Puerto Cabello during the month of December, 1900:

Country.	Weight.	Value.	Duties.
	<i>Kilos.</i>	<i>Bolivars.</i>	<i>Bolivars.</i>
United States.....	499,716	a20,563	a242,028.01
France.....	43,486	103,380	49,518.02
Germany.....	258,615	289,537	125,213.58
England.....	416,588	1,070,788	532,467.28
Holland.....	56,922	93,895	50,017.09
Spain.....	62,492	60,000	36,000.00
Italy.....	14,848	5,623	8,974.18
Total.....	1,852,617	1,948,286	1,044,213.16

a Five bolivars taken as equivalent to the U. S. dollar.

MARACAIBO TRADE, 1900.

The following is an abstract from the report of the British vice-consul at Maracaibo for 1900:

Coffee.—The export for 1900 of the principal article, which is coffee has not increased, being less than that of former years.

The export of coffee during the past twelve months was as follows:

Year.	Quantity.	
	<i>Bags.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>
1900.....	345,471	20,060
1899.....	334,328	20,268
1898.....	441,579	26,494

The average price of coffee per 100 pounds f. o. b. Maracaibo may be calculated at £1. 6s., at £1. 5s. for 1899, at £1. 7s. for 1898, and at £2. 4s. for 1897.

The value of export of coffee amounted in 1900 to £540,707, in 1899 to £543,248, and in 1898 to £772,584.

Hides.—In 1900 the export of hides has increased considerably. There were shipped 34,793 hides this year, against 30,221 hides last year. The declared value of export was £30,430 in 1900, and £20,456 in 1899, showing an increase of nearly 50 per cent in value.

Skins.—The export of skins shows a considerable increase. In 1900 Maracaibo exported 125,866 kilograms, against 107,217 kilograms in 1899.

Balsam copaiba.—The quantity of balsam copaiba exported in 1900 was 36,587 kilograms, against 42,732 kilograms the previous year, showing a small decrease.

Fish sounds.—Fish sounds are becoming more and more in demand, and merchants continue to pay a good deal of attention to this trade. There were exported 42,901 kilograms in 1900, against 39,261 kilograms in 1899.

Cacao.—Cacao was in demand the whole year, and its export has increased heavily. In 1900 the export amounted to 184,456 kilograms, with a value of £10,800, against 123,933 kilograms, with a value of £7,300 in 1899.

Quinia bark.—The export of quinia bark is decreasing. In 1900 the export shows only 4,099 kilograms, while in 1899, 12,778 kilograms were exported.

Dividivi.—During the whole year there was a good demand for divi-divi, and prices were maintained. Maracaibo exported in 1900 more or less the same quantity as in the former years, viz, about 1,800 tons.

Wood.—The export of wood has decreased a little; 5,421 tons were exported in 1900, against 6,506 tons in 1899. The principal kinds exported are boxwood, cedar, ebony, fustic, and lignum vitæ.

(General produce from Maracaibo during the year 1900.)

Month.	Coffee.		Cacao.		Quinia bark.		Hides.		Goatskins.	
	<i>Bags.</i>	<i>Kilos.</i>	<i>Bags.</i>	<i>Kilos.</i>	<i>Pkgs.</i>	<i>Kilos.</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Kilos.</i>	<i>Pkgs.</i>	<i>Kilos.</i>
January.....	29,618	1,786,947	421	20,899	24	989	5,286	49,551	127	11,976
February.....	34,711	2,148,554	48	2,119	.....	.....	1,812	16,709	75	7,320
March.....	40,912	2,479,885	178	8,665	.....	.....	5,022	49,248	172	16,044
April.....	25,495	1,536,647	87	4,026	.....	.....	2,826	28,165	157	15,107
May.....	27,294	1,640,404	505	25,240	.....	.....	2,995	29,659	158	14,122
June.....	39,527	2,356,877	398	17,685	2	110	1,710	17,811	131	11,922
July.....	34,715	2,076,444	509	24,614	.....	.....	608	6,563	49	4,322
August.....	27,589	1,652,338	781	35,121	.....	.....	2,203	22,707	138	8,636
September.....	24,843	1,496,023	566	27,518	14	679	3,397	29,281	44	3,382
October.....	23,370	1,403,656	358	17,051	.....	.....	2,784	25,902	200	16,561
November.....	20,959	1,262,262	34	1,518	52	2,185	3,130	33,495	84	6,044
December.....	16,438	990,477	.....	.....	3	136	8,075	29,448	91	6,957
Total.....	345,471	20,829,464	3,885	184,456	95	4,099	34,798	338,039	1,426	121,392
Total 1899.....	334,328	20,268,737	2,602	123,933	250	10,241	80,297	322,001	1,107	98,073

CIUDAD BOLIVAR TRADE, 1900.

The following is an abstract from the report of the British vice-consul at Ciudad Bolivar, 1900:

Imports.—As the goods imported here come almost exclusively in transit by British, French, Dutch, and German lines, via Trinidad and British West Indies, it is most difficult to trace their real origin.

Value of imports at Ciudad Bolivar during the years 1899–1900.

Country.	Value.	
	1899. ^a	1900.
Trinidad (principally transit from the United Kingdom, United States, etc.)	£240,000	£259,166
Germany (direct).....	.....	3,638
Total.....	240,000	262,799

^a Figures for 1899 are approximate only.

Balata rubber.—More extensive use having been found by manufacturers for the employment of balata rubber, the prices for 1900 have ruled correspondingly high, and a great impetus was given to the balata industry in this consular district.

The production reached 1,205 tons, as compared with 746 tons in the previous year. Other circumstances further favored this industry, viz., a wet season, making the trees very productive, and abundant labor.

Gold mines.—The gold-mining industry has remained stationary since last year's report.

The cyanide treatment of the mill tailings has been successfully introduced into the district by one company, and it is hoped that this may induce other mines to start work again.

Undoubtedly very extensive deposits of quartz exist in the Yuruari mining district, which formerly, owing to the excessive cost of labor and the loss of gold in the tailings, could not be treated profitably. Only the very rich ores were therefore worked.

Within the last few years the price of labor has fallen by about one-half, which saving of cost, added to the success attending the cyanide treatment, should make it possible to work low-grade ores to advantage.

Cattle.—The export of cattle has been less than in previous years, and dealings have been somewhat checked by an export duty of \$2 per head. It is, however, expected that this impost will be removed before long. The price of beef oxen, weighing about 900 to 1,000 pounds, live weight, is from £5 to £5 10s. a head.

Transit trade.—The transit trade with the neighboring Republic of Colombia, via Orinoco and Meta rivers, has been blocked the greater part of the year.

New ventures.—A German company has lately acquired the asphalt mines situated near the mouth of the Pedernales branch of the Orinoco. Another German company is reported to have acquired the extensive Caura property, consisting of cattle ranches and forests belonging to the heirs of the late General Crespo.

Two French companies have acquired forest lands south of the Orinoco for the exploitation of balata rubber^a and other natural products.

Iron mines.—Work at the important Imataca iron-ore mines still remains in abeyance.

Cable.—A cable connecting this city with the opposite shore of the Orinoco has been laid during the year, thus facilitating telegraphic communication with Caracas and the outer world.

^a The majority of the rubber found is *hevea*.

Principal articles of export from Ciudad Bolívar during the years 1899 and 1900.

Articles.	1899.		1900.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
Copaiba oil.....kilos..	25,291	£2,680	8,474	£860
Cacao.....do..	18,440	357	38,481	2,327
Coffee.....do..	160,678	3,236	18,107	451
Rubber (Para).....do..	79,586	25,879	47,730	11,481
Rubber (balata).....do..	746,865	94,207	1,205,612	185,141
Hides.....do..	1,215,474	70,267	1,495,387	80,513
Deer skins.....do..	39,340	2,779	35,169	2,985
Gold bullion.....do..	1,316	120,975	35,600	63,904
Tonga beans.....do..	20,780	2,910	86,460	9,272
Tobacco.....do..	99,612	3,167	43,211	1,488
Heron feathers (egret).....do..	2,534	20,830	5,811	35,882
Other articles.....do..	31,097	2,033	71,018	8,075
Total.....do..	2,441,033	349,962	3,051,610	402,439
Total.....tons..	2,441		3,051	
Cattle.....number..	9,860	43,915	6,496	30,777
Live animals (horses, etc.).....do..	411	1,683	309	998
Total.....		396,510		434,214

COMMERCE IN 1901.

The "Commercial Relations of the United States, 1902," published by the Department of State, contains the following information regarding Venezuela:^a

The trade of the principal countries with Venezuela in 1901 was:

Country.	Imports from Venezuela.	Exports to Venezuela.	Country.	Imports from Venezuela.	Exports to Venezuela.
United States.....	\$7,153,500	\$3,052,400	Germany.....	\$2,237,200	\$1,666,000
Great Britain.....	515,000	2,568,400	France.....	2,969,700	350,300

^a Dollars.

The United States consul-general at Frankfort reports as follows:

The imports into Germany from Venezuela for the five years from 1897 to 1901, inclusive, were:^b

Year.	Value.		Percent- age of total im- ports.	Year.	Value.		Percent- age of total im- ports.
	Marks.				Marks.		
1897.....	10,900,000	\$2,594,200	0.2	1900.....	9,700,000	\$2,308,600	0.2
1898.....	9,700,000	2,308,600	.2	1901.....	9,400,000	2,237,200	.2
1899.....	9,400,000	2,237,200	.2				

The German exports to Venezuela were:

Year.	Value.		Percent- age of total ex- ports.	Year.	Value.		Percent- age of total ex- ports.
	Marks.				Marks.		
1897.....	5,500,000	\$1,309,000	0.1	1900.....	5,000,000	\$1,190,000	0.1
1898.....	4,300,000	1,023,400	.1	1901.....	7,000,000	1,666,000	.2
1899.....	4,000,000	952,000	.1				

^a Com. Rel. of the U. S., 1902, Vol. I, pp. 108-109.

^b Statistics from Statistical Yearbook of the German Empire.

It will be seen that the trade between these countries is very small. The exports from Germany to Venezuela for 1901, however, show a very considerable increase over any of the previous four years, both absolutely and relatively.

Destination of exports.—In a report on Venezuelan commerce the Belgian chargé d'affaires at Caracas gives the following information relative to the destination of the Venezuelan exports:

"The greater part of the coffee is shipped to Hamburg, a smaller quantity to New York, and a few special grades to Spain. The fine coffees were formerly sent to Havre, but since the beginning of the year 1901 the application in France of the maximum tariff of 300 francs per 100 kilograms to Venezuelan coffees has stopped the movement and the French markets will remain closed to them as long as Venezuela has no commercial treaty with that country.

"The medium and inferior grades of cacao are sent to Spain and Germany, while the English and French markets—London, Paris, Bordeaux—take the superior qualities. Recently an important trade has been established between New York and Venezuela for this product, which is threatened in France with the application of the same maximum duty levied on coffee if diplomatic relations between the two Republics are not reestablished.

"Dried hides and skins are almost entirely shipped to New York, while cattle, with the exception of small lots shipped to the Lesser Antilles, are exported to Cuba."

Imports from New York during the last six months of 1901.—In the six months from July 1 to December 31, 1901, 59 steamships and 3 sailing vessels cleared from the port of New York bound for Venezuelan ports, carrying 433,253 packages of merchandise, weighing 19,336,597.34 kilograms, valued at \$1,449,849.89. During this period the consul-general of Venezuela at New York certified 1,755 consular invoices, covering the articles of merchandise shown in the following table:

Articles.	Packages.	Kilos.	Value.
Axes and agricultural instruments	837	22,769.56	\$7,572.59
Barbed wire	12,122	487,689	26,169.40
Beer and hops	205	16,780	1,547.60
Blankets	832	103,277.50	69,743.82
Butter	2,586	143,647	37,369.60
Cement (Roman)	1,635	275,237	2,581.00
Coal	4,178	493,855	3,462.00
Cordage	6,487	186,775.75	38,352.64
Cotton drill, colored and white	584	70,038	33,376.98
Cotton drill, rough	901	93,749	35,690.00
Drugs and perfumes	3,114	175,781	59,360.82
Electric machinery and supplies	5,184	585,699.70	96,597.13
Fine hardware, etc.	117,507	751,726.56	92,524.39
Flour	92,091	6,275,176	265,978.80
Forage	304	18,200	574.05
Glassware and lamps	1,168	57,522.22	5,718.85
Gold coin	1	5.25	8,000.00
Hardware and vehicles	16,286	1,577,338.20	102,631.98
Kerosene	53,570	1,992,274	55,758.50
Lard	26,652	1,246,452	229,473.54
Live animals	11	8,563	1,864.00
Liquors	178	8,685	1,381.00

a Dollars.

Articles.	Packages.	Kilos.	Value.
Lumber (rough).....	10, 979	675, 469	\$16, 678. 00
Oil and paints.....	1, 414	99, 323. 45	10, 642. 83
Printing supplies (paper, presses, and type).....	825	155, 999. 95	10, 763. 56
Provisions.....	19, 862	871, 152. 95	98, 412. 60
Tobacco:			
Chewing tobacco.....	632	13, 014	6, 380. 49
Cigarette fillings.....	216	15, 724	5, 251. 00
Leaf tobacco.....	86	3, 767	2, 378. 47
Manufactured tobacco.....	11	673	1, 275. 00
Sailcloth and canvas.....	579	64, 756	25, 282. 08
Sewing machines and parts thereof.....	412	19, 590. 25	7, 576. 45
Small fruits.....	49, 148	2, 439, 240	82, 452. 10
Soap and candles.....	2, 688	388, 725	11, 767. 63
Sugar.....	73	2, 932	361. 00
Total.....	433, 253	19, 336, 597. 34	1, 449, 849. 89

^a Dollars.

Imports of cotton from Great Britain, 1898-1901.

[Average price per yard, 4½ cents.^a]

	Quantity.	Value.
	<i>Yards.</i>	
1898.....	33, 872, 100	\$1, 317, 098. 75
1899.....	42, 806, 000	1, 590, 840. 30
1900.....	42, 596, 800	1, 707, 557. 52
1901.....	32, 306, 900	1, 479, 785. 00

^a Annual statement of trade of the United Kingdom.

^b Dollars

CARACAS DISTRICT TRADE, 1901.

The following is an abstract from the report of the British acting consul at Caracas:

Imports.—The import trade showed two distinct phases in the districts of La Guaira and Puerto Cabello, judging from the reports of the vice-consuls at those places. At the former there was a slight increase, while at the latter port the decline has been pronounced. It should be borne in mind that the report of the trade through La Guaira is more or less a statement of the commercial movement of Caracas and the back country, in the same way that that of Puerto Cabello includes the town of Valencia and a large area.

Within a short time a number of houses were built in Caracas of iron frame, with cement walls and the corresponding woodwork. This easily accounts for the increase in the imports of hardware, timber, and cement. The materials for the construction of these houses were all brought from the United States, as they could be obtained more quickly and cheaply from New York than from any other market.

Exports.—In every product exported from the La Guaira and Puerto Cabello districts there was a great decrease. The coffee crop proved very poor in quantity owing to severe drought. From the same cause the cacao harvest, on which greater hopes were based, was much lower than the average.



EIRD'S-EYE VIEW OF THE PORT OF LA GUAIRA AND BREAKWATER.
(Courtesy of the Venezuelan Government.)

From a report published in a local paper referring to the exports at La Guaira, it appears that the greater part of the coffee shipped from this district last year went to New York. It amounted to nearly 40 per cent of the total shipments. The tide of business, specially for the exportation of coffee, turned toward the United States as soon as the extra duty was imposed by France on the Venezuelan product.

Twenty per cent of the coffee went to Hamburg, and the balance to Havre and other ports.

Venezuelan cacao finds its best market in France. Of the 70,821 bags shipped hence, about 57,000 bags went to the three ports of Havre, St. Nazaire, and Bordeaux.

Hides and skins go nearly all to New York, whither 76,000 of the total of 84,000 were shipped.

Cattle.—The export of cattle to Cuba continued during the last year from Puerto Cabello. The number shipped is an increase over previous years and the highest since the trade began. In 1899 the total from Puerto Cabello and Guanta was 64,083; in 1900 it had dropped at the former port to 18,774, but last year the total shipment reached the high figure of 66,049 head, which were conveyed to Habana and Santiago de Cuba on 74 steamers flying the Norwegian flag.

This trade will probably continue for some time longer and might even increase, were it not for the great trouble and expense in bringing the animals from the interior to the port of embarkation. The expenses amount to about £2 per head placed on board ship, and they are sold in Cuba on the average for about £5.

LA GUAIRA TRADE, 1901.

The Commercial Relations of the United States (Vol. I, 1902, pp. 813–815) publishes a report of the United States consul at La Guaira regarding the trade of said port, of which the following is an abstract:

Imports from principal countries.

	Tons.
United States of America	24, 613. 8
Great Britain	13, 077. 4
Germany	7, 666. 1
France	1, 567. 7
Spain	1, 539. 3
Holland	3, 680. 5
Italy	812. 6

The foregoing figures show that the United States, besides keeping first place in exports to Venezuela, has increased her trade considerably over the year 1900. Great Britain, which follows, has gained in about the same proportion, and Germany is again a good third.

Imports by articles.	Packages.	Metric tons.
Merchandise.....	137,512	8,609.9
Hardware.....	55,180	2,250
Provisions and liquors.....	306,639	17,146.4
Kerosene.....	55,267	1,940.6
Oils (other than kerosene).....	9,108	586.6
Timber.....	19,110	1,696.3
Cement.....	20,261	8,419.9
Coal.....		16,674.2
Machinery.....	714	129.3
Railway materials.....	8,447	562.6
Total.....	612,238	52,967.9

Exports at La Guaira for year ended December 31, 1901.

Goods.	Packages.	Metric tons.
Bags of coffee.....	120,217	7,290.6
Bags of cacao.....	70,065	3,774.2
Hides.....	80,068	782
Sundries.....	8,517	677
Total.....	278,877	12,523.8

Coasting trade for year ended December 31, 1901.

IMPORTS.		Metric tons.
Merchandise.....		14,054.7
Timber.....		2,741
Coal.....		248.3
Total.....		17,044

EXPORTS.	
Merchandise.....	5,584.4

Thousands of head of cattle have been shipped to Cuba within the last few years, and this item alone is a source of wealth to Venezuela, where, owing to the continuous warm climate, cattle can be raised with little care and expense. No housing of cattle is necessary, and on the vast plains of the interior is room for millions of animals, practically insuring an income to their owners without the outlay of money, excepting for fences and for shipment after the cattle are ready for the market.

The great mineral resources are untouched, owing to the lack of railways to the mines. All these things would be changed if capital were insured guarantees, and, if properly developed, the minerals of this country would be a source of income and of employment to many.

Classification of imports.

	Kilos.
Merchandise.....	8,609,296
Hardware.....	2,250,033
Provisions and liquors.....	17,146,417

	Kilos.
Oils other than kerosene	538, 600
Kerosene	1, 940, 850
Timber	1, 696, 271
Cement	3, 419, 920
Coal	16, 674, 163
Machinery	129, 311
Railway materials	562, 631
Total	52, 967, 962

Foreign importations for 1901 and countries of origin.

	Kilos.
Germany	7, 666, 138
Spain	1, 539, 330
United States	24, 613, 870
France	1, 567, 759
Holland	3, 680, 502
England	13, 077, 293
Italy	812, 643
Belgium	167
Colombia	1, 435
Denmark	8, 725
Total	52, 967, 962

La Guaira, British, report on trade, 1901.—The British vice-consul reports as follows (abstract):

During the year two important measures were decreed by the Government, which affected both the import and export trade to a considerable degree.

The first was a resolution, coming in force on May 1, 1901, which abolished the export duties on coffee, cacao, and cotton, and raised by 12½ per cent the existing territorial duty, which made the addition to the ordinary import duty 25 per cent.

Imports.—The second was in July, when corn and beans were admitted free of duty for a period of about two months, which expired on September 5.

Taking the different lines of imports in the order observed in the tables, we find—

Increase.

	Tons.
Merchandise	1, 834
Provisions	2, 835
Hardware	985
Oils (not kerosene)	194
Timber	588
Cement	1, 640
Coal	4, 396
Machinery	34
Railway materials	354

In view of these figures it seems paradoxical to say that trade had gone back during the year, yet this is, nevertheless, the fact.

The increase in the importation of merchandise—in which is included cloth stuffs of every description, fancy articles, etc.—can only be accounted for by the desire of a few large houses to avoid the increase of 12½ per cent in the duties, to take effect in May, which caused them to import largely in the preceding month.

In provisions the increased importation appears principally in the months of August and September, and is due to the enormous quantity of corn brought from the United States in view of the decree alluded to above.

In hardware is included all iron work, and as several buildings with iron frames were imported from the United States during the year, it is to this circumstance that we must attribute the increase of 985 tons.

Coal.—Coal is the only article which has really been in demand during the year. The total increase in the receipts amounts to 4,396 tons, and the vessels engaged in the trade numbered 13 more than in the preceding year.

Exports.—It is in the table of exports that we see the great difference in the trade of this port during 1901.

The coffee crop was far below the average, and the quantity shipped was 3,010 tons less than in 1900. Besides this the prices obtained for the article were very low.

Cacao also showed a decline in the shipments, amounting to 1,992 tons.

In hides there was a falling off of 32,469, equal to 293 tons.

Coasting trade.—The failure of the corn and cacao crops referred to affected somewhat the volume of the incoming trade with the coast, and the total decline was equal to 1,764 tons. There was, on the other hand, a great increase in the timber trade.

British trade.—The total quantity of imports from the United Kingdom shows a rise of 3,264 tons, but this must be attributed to the increase of the coal trade, and it would therefore seem that the balance of commerce with the United Kingdom has remained more or less stationary.

The La Guaira and Caracas Railway Company (British) continues to keep up the traffic between this port and the capital, and by dint of very good management is able, notwithstanding the falling off in trade, to clear expenses and pay a small dividend.

The La Guaira Harbor Corporation, the only other British company established here, is also very ably managed, and it facilitates in every possible way the shipping coming here, which finds a safe and commodious anchorage under the shelter of the breakwater.

Importation, exportation, and coasting trade at La Guaira for the year 1901.

FOREIGN IMPORTATION.

Articles.	Quantity.	
	Packages.	Metric tons.
Merchandise.....	137,512	8,610
Hardware.....	55,180	2,250
Provisions and liquors.....	306,639	17,146
Oils, other than kerosene.....	9,108	538
Kerosene.....	55,267	1,940
Timber.....	19,110	1,696
Cement.....	20,261	3,419
Coal.....		16,674
Machinery.....	714	129
Railway materials.....	8,447	562

Ships carrying—	Number.
General cargo.....	210
Coal.....	20
Timber.....	1

FOREIGN EXPORTATION.

Goods.	Quantity.	
	Packages.	Metric tons.
Bags of coffee.....	120,217	7,290
Bags of cacao.....	70,085	3,774
Hides.....	80,056	782
Sundries.....	8,517	677

COASTING TRADE.

Articles.	Quantity	
	Importation.	Exportation.
Merchandise.....	Metric tons. 14,055	Metric tons. 5,584
Timber.....	2,741	
Coal.....	248	

PUERTO CABELLO TRADE, 1901.^a

The United States consul at Puerto Cabello reports that the value of the import trade for the year ended June 30, 1901, was figured at \$2,370,450. The export trade for the same period amounted to \$3,337,223. The total trade was distributed, according to countries of origin, as follows:

Country.	Imports.	Exports.
England.....	^b \$845,802	^b \$10,714
United States.....	504,666	739,692
Germany.....	489,607	125,296
Netherlands.....	187,023	140,303
France.....	141,646	881,479
Spain.....	135,553	241,559
Italy.....	66,158	11,388
Cuba (cattle and horses).....		1,186,792
Total.....	2,370,450	3,337,223

^a Com. Rel. U. S., Vol. I, 1901, pp. 716-723.^b Dollars.

The following table shows the total quantity of imports and exports of Puerto Cabello for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1901:

Country.	Imports.	Exports.
	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>
United States	10,438,428	7,599,256
Germany	6,163,366	2,896,400
France	796,627	12,656,166
Italy	717,585	417,421
Netherlands	1,977,325	1,556,546
Spain	1,645,817	2,025,710
England	4,236,784	585,843
Cuba		32,712,736
Total	25,974,782	59,850,091

The imports from the United States were:

Articles.	Amount.	Articles.	Amount.
	<i>Pounds.</i>		<i>Pounds.</i>
Apples	16,724	Machinery	66,843
Beer	24,545	Oatmeal	70,130
Butter	175,049	Kerosene	2,696,204
Canned goods	20,267	Paint	12,324
Creoline	21,437	Potatoes	36,449
Crackers	67,954	Rice	289,238
Cornstarch	83,785	Rope	217,824
Candles	28,952	Rosin	547,067
Dry goods	746,070	Railway supplies	37,123
Drugs and medicines	247,360	Spices	48,741
Electric-light materials	12,113	Tobacco	50,982
Flour	8,535,413	Twine	117,878
Fish, dried	92,573	Timber, pine	135,737
Hardware	204,133	Wire, barbed	190,625
Hams	75,266		
Lard	441,064	Total	a 10,438,428

a Valued at \$504,666.

The exports to the United States were:

Articles.	Amount.	Articles.	Amount.
	<i>Pounds.</i>		<i>Pounds.</i>
Coffee	5,991,026	Skins:	
Cacao	46,215	Deer	57,601
Ginger	585	Goat	323,702
Hides, ox	1,179,763	Tonka beans	864
		Total	a 7,599,256

a Valued at \$739,692.

The consul states that England leads in the sales of dry goods, hardware, and railway supplies, securing this trade through the efforts of commercial travelers. There are no English or American business houses in this district.

The industries of Puerto Cabello are: The manufacture of hats (straw and palm), leather of all kinds, shoes, soap, oil of cocoanut, candles (tallow and stearin), beer, rum, ice, patent medicines, cigars and cigarettes; an excellent grade of tobacco, grown in Venezuela, is used.

All these industries are protected by a high tariff. Mines of gold, copper, and coal have been discovered near Puerto Cabello, but only the copper mine has been worked. A fine quality of marble, said to be superior to the Italian, is quarried just east of Puerto Cabello and used for the local manufacture of monuments, table tops, slabs, mantels, etc.

An electric-light company, established ten years ago, supplies the city with light. The manager is an American.

The port is connected with interior towns by two railway systems. The Puerto Cabello and Valencia Railway (British corporation) has tracks through the city to the wharves and connects the port with Valencia, a city of over 40,000 population. There, the Caracas and Valencia Railway (German corporation), makes connection with Caracas. The Bolivar Railway Company (British) connects with Puerto Cabello by means of a daily steamer from its terminal station, Tucacas. This railway extends 100 miles into the interior of Venezuela, and unites Puerto Cabello with all the towns and cities near it.

Imports of Puerto Cabello consular district for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1901.

Articles.	United States.	Germany.	France.	Italy.	Holland.	Spain.	England.	Total.
	Pounds.	Pounds.	Pounds.	Pounds.	Pounds.	Pounds.	Pounds.	Pounds.
Agricultural implements		41,612			5,808		200,848	248,168
Ammunition	1,447	15,508						16,950
Apples	16,724							16,724
Bran	1,659							1,659
Books	44							44
Brewery supplies	1,630	13,552						15,182
Blacking	624							624
Bottles, empty		41,039			506			41,545
Barrels	1,968	3,300						5,268
Barley	194	12,528						12,722
Beer	24,545	262,946					94,488	381,979
Butter	175,049	152,504		9,706	836			338,403
Canned goods	20,267	9,389	10,795	2,338		885	435	44,109
Creoline	21,437	4,582						26,019
Confectionery	5,410	5,202	17,431	4,215		9,218	7,063	48,539
Cement	7,656	826,773			61,380	60,887	127,532	1,084,228
Corks	26	27,699	904	176				28,705
Cigarettes	242					629		871
Cigarette paper				2,970	1,507	12,480	2,583	19,540
Crackers	67,954	47,110		99		2,640	817	118,120
Cornstarch	83,785							83,785
Cheese	321	19,398	2,145	3,225	73,636	152		98,877
Candles	28,952	114			8,888			37,954
Wicks		780						780
Cards, playing						1,223		1,223
Carts, hand	715							715
Disinfectant		759						759
Demijohns		32,524						32,524
Dry goods	746,070	829,893	141,466	115,506	428,108	78,150	2,833,525	5,167,718
Drugs and medicines	247,860	216,273	40,959	8,811	620,829	1,595	241,434	1,377,261
Electric-light materials	12,113	6,380						18,493
Earthenware		40,385						40,385
Flour	3,535,413							3,535,413
Of cocoa		31						31
In tins	33	442						475
Of sago palm	981	3,395				607		4,983
Fruits, dried	645	905	5,825	2,683		17,058		26,516
Furniture	7,974	587	2,945	176				11,682
Fishing materials	7,264			612		1,177		9,053
Fish, dried	92,573	5,889	187	1,089		31	75	99,844
Firecrackers	6,113							6,113
Fruit juice			435			323		758
Glue			961					961
Gold	37							37

Imports of Puerto Cabello consular district for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1901—Cont'd.

Articles.	United States.	Germany.	France.	Italy.	Holland.	Spain.	England.	Total.
	Pounds.	Pounds.	Pounds.	Pounds.	Pounds.	Pounds.	Pounds.	Pounds.
Guns.....	2,272							2,272
Hardware.....	204,133	464,915	67,731	60,347	15,565		400,672	1,213,363
Hams.....	75,266	627			180			76,023
Hat materials.....				519		1,591		2,110
Iron, galvanized.....			8,283					8,283
Liquors.....		4,723	118,645	1,368	1,441	1,760	1,319	129,256
Leather.....	3,458	8,096	8,789	378				20,721
Lard.....	441,064							441,064
Miscellaneous.....	18,066	16,091	1,590	1,973	22	640		38,382
Marble.....				114				114
Matches.....		33,719			3,065			36,784
Meat, salt.....	3,579							3,579
Mustard.....		68	37					105
Machinery.....	66,843	71,295			4,189	440	25,106	167,873
Olives.....	114		5,117	989		27,647		33,817
Oats.....	1,223	273		4,624	222			6,342
Oatmeal.....	70,130							70,130
Oil:								
Kerosene.....	2,695,204							2,695,204
Sweet.....	4,387	2,343	46,807	288,817		20,471		357,825
Almond.....		543						543
Linseed.....		3,929			3,617			7,546
Bone.....	3,590							3,590
Machine.....	9,167							9,167
Onions.....	4,578	2,823	2,988	1,122	12,624	6,006	11,902	42,048
Oakum.....	974							974
Pickles.....		3,901	10,456			24	6,398	20,779
Paint.....	12,324	32,153			1,456		684	46,617
Paper, wrapping.....	1,914	469,290	268		2,510	997		474,949
Potatoes.....	36,449	69,524	9,568		1,078			116,617
Perfumery.....	8,160	16,946	22,477	958				48,586
Plants.....	4,917	176						5,093
Peas.....			29			884		884
Plated ware.....								29
Rice.....	289,238	1,995,969	1,012	3,463	4,857	169	19,338	2,314,046
Rope.....	217,824	3,769				1,254	9,022	231,869
Rosin.....	547,067							547,067
Railway supplies.....	37,123	40,341			490,074		241,139	808,677
Seeds.....	5,438	13,679	11,662	6,743		3,989		41,511
Sirups.....	688	275	2,145	97		2,047		5,202
Sauces.....	1,608		3,047			9,178		13,833
Spices.....	48,741	27,462	14,638	15,035		20,418	592	126,886
Stearin.....		5,610			224,147			229,757
Sardines.....		80,086	64,425	66	2,090	119,889		266,556
Stationery.....	1,933	20,890	2,171	2,417	719	1,133	1,965	31,218
Statuary.....				1,355		891		2,246
Sugar.....	229	860						589
Scales.....	891							891
Sausage.....	449	1,861	363	2,972		411		6,056
Stone, artificial.....						9,535		9,535
Strings, instrument.....		55				255		310
Saddletrees.....	228							228
Safes.....		2,310						2,310
Telegraph supplies.....	2,079							2,079
Tea.....		130						130
Trees.....	158							158
Tobacco.....	50,982		429			376		51,860
Tombstones.....		2,330		2,180				4,510
Twine.....	117,878	34,126	3,774	8,063			614	164,475
Timber.....	135,537					666		136,203
Tallow.....					10,373	4,374		14,747
Vinegar.....		3,804	6,175			273	427	10,679
Vermicelli.....		1,252	420					1,672
Vegetables.....	851	123						974
Water:								
Mineral.....		58,445	4,821	3,126		638		66,590
Orange, Florida.....			1,608					1,608
Wire, barbed.....	190,625							190,625
Wines.....	1,917	39,809	153,193	164,288	2,648	1,222,906	8,305	1,592,956
Wagon materials.....	1,967							1,967
Windmills.....		7,082						7,082
Yarn.....		1,386						1,386

Exports of Puerto Cabello consular district for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1901.

Articles.	United States.	Germany.	France.	Italy.
	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>
Coffee.....	8, 991, 026	1, 273, 583	11, 455, 550	70, 597
Cacao.....	46, 215	186, 767	746, 143	12, 008
Cattle.....		9, 011		
Cococanut meat.....				
Copper, scrap.....				
Cotton.....		4, 204		
Dividivi.....		52, 316		48, 722
Fruits.....				
Ginger.....	585			
Horns.....		11, 492		6, 188
Hides:				
Ox.....	1, 179, 763		10, 008	2, 616
Deer.....	57, 601		3, 135	
Goat.....	823, 702	10, 578	93, 000	
Horses.....				
Iron, scrap.....		14, 744	90	230, 111
Leather, sole.....				
Miscellaneous.....		51, 864	7, 202	38, 258
Machinery, returned.....		11, 165		
Peruvian bark.....			3, 306	
Seed, spurge.....		15, 985	190, 948	18, 979
Tonca beans.....	364			
Timber.....		655, 751	146, 784	

Articles.	Holland.	Spain.	England.	Cuba.	Total.
	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>
Coffee.....	467, 291	1, 814, 450	11, 999	2, 671	21, 087, 167
Cacao.....	1, 133	210, 117	516, 956		1, 718, 324
Cattle.....	421, 182			32, 646, 406	33, 067, 588
Cococanut meat.....	8, 630		42, 898		56, 589
Copper, scrap.....			7, 592		7, 592
Cotton.....					4, 204
Dividivi.....					96, 038
Fruits.....	339, 765				339, 765
Ginger.....					585
Horns.....					17, 680
Hides:					
Ox.....	23, 454				1, 215, 841
Deer.....	1, 404				62, 140
Goat.....					427, 280
Horses.....				63, 659	63, 659
Iron, scrap.....	15, 185	1, 044			261, 174
Leather, sole.....	1, 100				1, 100
Miscellaneous.....	134, 950	99	6, 398		238, 771
Machinery, returned.....					11, 165
Peruvian bark.....					3, 306
Seed, spurge.....	4, 613				225, 475
Tonca beans.....	438				802
Timber.....	142, 401				944, 936

Imports of Puerto Cabello consular district for the six months ended December 31, 1901.

Articles.	United States.	England.	Germany.	France.
	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>
Agricultural imports.....	913	109, 472	9, 864	
Ammunition.....			10, 461	
Advertisements.....	1, 621			
Apples.....	2, 334			
Bran.....	466			
Brewing supplies.....	466			
Blacking.....	70			
Blueing.....			1, 718	
Books.....			523	
Barley.....			1, 738	
Beer.....	101	24, 178	109, 760	
Butter.....	78, 139		48, 070	
Carts, hand.....	825			
Carriages.....	1, 392			
Canned goods.....	5, 581	110	6, 910	9, 653
Creolene.....			1, 777	
Confectionery.....	1, 124	1, 427	1, 027	8, 505
Cement.....	154, 864	276, 410	319, 209	

Imports of Puerto Cabello consular district, etc.—Continued.

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Articles	United States	England.	Germany.	France.
	Pounds.	Pounds.	Pounds.	Pounds.
.....	84,874	608,504	68	.....
.....	21,850	1,243	7,097	116
.....	88	.....	9,851	.....
.....	7,268	.....	2,912	1,100
.....	322,763	.....	.....	.....
.....	168,658	.....	.....	.....
.....
.....	95,988	499,494	9,422	49,238
.....	46,197	30,168	185,101	14,817
.....	19,483	22,323	70,468	.....
.....	145	.....	209,657	3,179
.....	1,621,626	.....	63	.....
.....	396	.....	1,128	.....
.....	3,401	.....	1,012	5,031
.....	10,821	.....	543	.....
.....	1,123	.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....	1,001	.....
.....	99	.....	.....	.....
.....	69,742	50,230	136,107	13,118
.....	34,084	.....	492	.....
.....	90	2,774	4,796	.....
.....	.....	.....	761	220
.....	1,999	13,127	.....	.....
.....	294	.....	2,569	561
.....	2,270	.....	807	.....
.....	238,092	.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	580	1,949	26,008
.....	112	.....	118	470
.....	.....	.....	.....	96
.....	7,240	.....	8,197	.....
.....	.....	.....	4,173	.....
.....	726	.....	.....	.....
.....	9,495	165	6,129	.....
.....
.....	204	.....	.....	13,160
.....	1,478	.....	.....	.....
Oil:	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	949,482	.....	.....	.....
.....	2,695	.....	886	8,291
.....	345	600	3,051	.....
.....	11,572	.....	3,753	.....
.....	1,372	.....	7,495	.....
.....	.....	22,074	50	1,179
.....	4,435	132	2,688	.....
.....	2,849	.....	106,409	8,148
.....	19,823	.....	16,057	1,320
.....	2,939	.....	4,626	2,853
.....	147	.....	.....	.....
.....
.....	3,370	.....	1,185,362	.....
.....	63,654	.....	.....	.....
.....	301,296	.....	.....	.....
.....	495	83,327	.....	.....
.....	9,266	.....	4,147	193
.....	.....	.....	.....	127
.....
.....	14,502	55,426	.....	.....
.....	9,935	.....	13,384	9,424
.....	.....	.....	118	.....
.....	2,318	.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....	11,129	3,047
.....	107	.....	488	121
.....	.....	.....	99	741
.....	.....	.....	2,472	.....
.....	11,352	.....	.....	.....
.....	3,896	.....	7,396	.....
.....	20,990	613	2,114	607
.....	18,315	.....	.....	.....
.....	803	.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....	730	1,311
.....	415	.....	92	37
.....	.....	.....	15,545	1,368
.....	113,506	.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	2,637	2,862	141,119
.....	.....	321	334	.....
Total.....	4,584,881	1,400,335	2,566,799	325,213
Total value, United States currency.....	\$150,816.95	\$135,501.63	\$138,035.63	\$36,276.49

Imports of Puerto Cabello consular district, etc.—Continued.

Articles.	Holland.	Spain.	Italy.	Total.
	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>
Agricultural implements	5,830			126,079
Ammunition.....				10,461
Advertisements.....				1,621
Apples.....				2,334
Bran.....				486
Brewing supplies.....				486
Blacking.....				70
Blueing.....				1,718
Books.....				528
Barley.....				1,788
Beer.....				134,089
Butter.....	2,215		528	128,952
Carts, hand.....				825
Carriages.....				1,392
Canned goods.....	52	165	1,731	24,202
Creolin.....				1,777
Confectionery.....		787	440	13,310
Cement.....	19,749			770,232
Corks.....				68
Coal.....				610,601
Crackers.....		558		48,142
Cornstarch.....				21,850
Cheese.....	35,316		633	40,049
Candles.....				7,268
Cereals.....				322,763
Corn.....				163,658
Demijohns.....			292	9,714
Dry goods.....	101,596	23,630	5,343	960,445
Drugs.....	196,884			358,484
Electric-light materials.....				41,806
Earthenware.....				212,981
Flour.....				1,621,689
Furniture.....				1,524
Fruits, dried.....		396	1,370	11,210
Fish, dried.....	59		50	11,473
Firecrackers.....				1,128
Glue.....				1,001
Guns.....				99
Hardware.....	134		1,245	270,576
Hams.....				34,526
Hats and materials.....			501	8,161
Ink.....				981
Iron, galvanized.....				15,126
Leather.....				3,444
Lamp wicks.....				3,077
Lard.....				238,092
Liquors.....	921	176		29,634
Liquors, sweet.....		2,248		2,948
Lavender.....		506		602
Miscellaneous.....		52	294	15,783
Matches.....				4,173
Meat, salt.....				726
Machinery.....				15,789
Monuments.....			5,500	5,500
Olives.....		9,606	1,236	24,206
Oatmeal.....				1,478
Oil:				
Kerosene.....				949,482
Sweet.....				93,710
Linseed.....		17,842	63,987	3,996
Machine.....				16,325
Onions.....		1,067		9,964
Pickles.....	5,830			29,138
Paint.....				7,255
Paper.....	3,161	3,207	6,080	129,854
Potatoes.....				37,206
Perfumery.....			149	10,567
Phonographs.....		398		147
Plaster.....				393
Rice.....			1,498	1,190,230
Rope.....				63,654
Rosin.....				301,296
Railway supplies.....				83,822
Seeds.....		497	501	14,604
Sirups.....		330		457
Statuary.....		413		413
Strings, musical instruments.....		202		202
Soda.....				69,924
Spices.....		6,043	3,890	42,666
Sugar.....				118
Scales.....				2,318
Sardines.....		11,787	66	26,029

Imports of Puerto Cabello consular district, etc.—Continued.

Articles.	Holland.	Spain.	Italy.	Total.
	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>
Sausage			642	1,358
Shoes				340
Sago palm				2,472
Tobacco		1,452		12,504
Tar				11,292
Twine		896	4,430	29,549
Timber				18,815
Tallow				808
Vinegar		290		2,381
Vegetables				544
Water, mineral			220	17,133
Wire, barbed				118,506
Wines	715	153,555	50,111	350,999
Yarn				655
Total	372,412	236,096	150,727	9,966,463
Total value, United States currency	\$48,386.45	\$44,105.71	\$11,556.06	\$564,678.82

The British vice-consul at Puerto Cabello reports as follows (abstract):

The following are the official figures of imports at Puerto Cabello during the year 1901:

From—	Value.		
	Currency.	Sterling.	
	<i>Bolivars.^a</i>	<i>£</i>	<i>s. d.</i>
United Kingdom	1,624,064.41	64,320	3 5
Germany	1,602,788.23	63,476	11 3
United States	1,300,526.63	51,506	0 1
France	874,383.46	34,629	1 0
Holland	821,464.75	32,533	5 2
Italy	110,630.16	4,381	7 11
Spain	86,661.98	3,432	3 1
Other countries	15,387.75	607	8 9
Total	6,435,872.32	254,886	0 8

^a 25.25 bolivars = £1 sterling.

Imports, according to these figures have decreased considerably, showing a reduction of fully 25 per cent as compared with those of the year previous, and of more than 40 per cent compared with those of 1898.

Shipping.—Almost all the cattle steamers loading between the island of Cuba and this portion of the continent are Norwegian.

Exports.—Figures for exports at Puerto Cabello during the year 1901 are the following:

	Tons.
Coffee	9,281
Cacao	456
Hides	540
Deerskins	35
Goatskins	261
Copra	75
Old metals	61

	Tons.
Quina	13
Lumber	374
Divi-divi	7
Cotton	4
Seeds.....	19

MARACAIBO TRADE, 1901.

The United States consul at Maracaibo reports as follows: "

Coffee.—Coffee, the main staple, has been shipped in a larger quantity than in the year before, though the prevalent low prices prevented large quantities of coffee and other produce from being shipped by the river and lake steamers from the district of Cúcuta in Colombia, as well as from the Táchira district in Venezuela to this port.

Shipments during the calendar year ended December 31, 1901, have been 53,312,611 pounds, at a valuation of \$4,355,102.84 gold, while the year before 42,998,325 pounds were shipped valued at \$4,096,564.80.

Hides.—The export of hides increased from 756,464 pounds, at an invoice value of \$139,977.59 gold, in 1900, to 950,761 pounds, valued at \$157,887.26 in 1901.

The order issued in September last regarding sanitary inspection and health certificates for hides to be introduced into the United States has had the effect of improving the condition of these articles.

Skins.—Goatskins to the amount of 300,299 pounds, at an invoice value of \$73,006.25 have been shipped, against 267,262 pounds at a valuation of \$66,987.80, last year.

Six thousand and eighty-three pounds of sheepskins, at a value of \$734.38, were forwarded.

Calfskins weighing 750 pounds, valued at \$128.60, were invoiced.

The last two articles have not figured in the exports in former years, nor have cattle hoofs, of which 5,234 pounds, valued at \$208.50, were forwarded this season.

Wool.—Was shipped to the amount of 10,828 pounds, valued at \$449.58.

Wood.—One million six hundred and twenty-three thousand three hundred and seventy-three pounds of boxwood, valued at \$9,274.98; cedar wood (in large logs, weight unknown), valued at \$3,865.74, and ebony wood, weighing 111,840 pounds, valued at \$809.64, were the principal shipments in this line. There were also smaller shipments of vera, lignum vitæ, carreto, and chichiriviche woods.

The British acting vice-consul at Maracaibo reports as follows (abstract):

Coffee.—The export of coffee has amounted to—

Year.	Quantity.	
	Bags.	Tons.
1901.....	422,886	25,626
1900.....	345,471	20,060
1899.....	344,328	20,268
1898.....	441,679	26,494

The average price of coffee per 100 pounds f. o. b. Maracaibo, may be calculated as 26s., against 26s. for 1900; 25s. for 1899, 27s. for 1898, and 44s. for 1897.

The value of exports of coffee in 1901 amounted to £591,112, against £540,707 in 1900, £543,243 in 1899, and £772,584 in 1898.

Hides.—There was exported in 1901, 45,472 hides, against 34,793 hides during 1900. The value of export was £22,800, against £30,430 in 1900.

Goatskins.—The export of goatskins has increased, amounting to 139 tons, against 121 tons in 1900.

Deerskins.—Seven and three-fourths tons of deerskins were exported in 1901, against 4½ tons in 1900.

Balsam copaiba.—In 1901 the export of balsam copaiba amounted to 40¾ tons, against 36½ tons in 1901.

Fish sounds.—The export of fish sounds shows a decrease. There were exported 36 tons, against 43 tons during 1900.

Cacao.—The export of cacao in 1901 amounted to 15½ tons, with a value of £8,370, against 18½ tons in 1900, with a value of £10,800.

Quina bark.—The quina bark export has increased. It amounted to 6½ tons, against 4 tons in 1900.

Dividivi.—Business has been good during the year 1901 in dividivi. Prices improved at the end of the year in consequence of the heavy demand in Europe. There were shipped from here in 1901 about 3,400 tons, against 1,800 tons in 1900.

Asphaltum.—American asphalt manufacturers bought a big mine near the River Limón, and are building a railroad from this mine to the lake. They also purchased the necessary machinery in order to refine the raw material here. The export will begin probably during 1902.

General produce exported from Maracaibo during the years 1901 and 1900.

Articles.	1901.		1900.	
		<i>Metric tons.</i>		<i>Metric tons.</i>
Coffee.....bags..	422, 386	25, 626	345, 471	20, 829
Cacao.....do....	3, 279	154	3, 886	184
Quina bark.....packages..	186	61	96	4
Hides.....number..	45, 472	456	31, 793	338
Goatskins.....packages..	1, 880	139	1, 426	121
Deerskins.....do....	84	74	50	44
Copaiba.....do....	1, 029	404	899	364
Fustic.....do....		6, 272		5, 421
Dividivi.....do....		3, 898		1, 781
Brown sugar.....bags..	10, 893	283	7, 168	274
Fish sounds.....do....	504	36	583	48

CIUDAD BOLIVAR TRADE, 1901.

The following is an abstract from the British vice-consul's report on the trade and commerce of the consular district of Ciudad Bolivar for the the year 1901:

The total trade with foreign countries (imports and exports) amounts to £706,388 for the year. This shows an increase over the previous year of £9,375, while if compared with the average of £624,743 of the previous ten years, 1891-1900, the increase in the volume of trade is £81,645.

Imports.—The imports are £3,296 in excess of those for 1900. It is impossible to trace accurately the countries of origin, as some foreign goods come in British ships, while some British goods come in foreign ships, and no complete record is kept as to the country of manufacture or production.

Exports.—The total exports for the year under review were £440,293. None of the various articles calls for special comment with the exception of the heron feathers (aigrettes). These show a decrease, compared with the previous year, of 3,798 kilos in weight, and £25,507 in value.

Gold mines.—The gold-mining industry in the Yuruari Territory has not shown any advance.

Banking.—The want of a bank in this consular district continues to be felt, as the entire absence of financial facilities for traders restricts enterprise and commerce.

Principal articles of export from Ciudad Bolivar during the years 1900-1901.

Articles.	1900.		1901.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	<i>Kilos.</i>		<i>Kilos.</i>	
Cacao.....	38,481	£2,327	33,810	£1,924
Coffee.....	13,107	431	66,997	1,828
Copaiba oil.....	8,474	860	16,287	1,578
Rubber (Para).....	47,780	11,561	142,797	81,363
Rubber (Balata).....	1,206,612	185,141	1,164,778	167,574
Hides.....	1,496,987	80,613	1,486,682	81,100
Deerskins.....	36,169	2,985	52,192	4,536
Otherskins.....			12,060	645
Gold bullion.....	600	63,904	842	89,151
Gold and silver specie.....			68	190
Tonka beans.....	86,460	9,272	7,571	904
Tobacco.....	43,211	1,488	57,006	1,865
Heron feathers (egret).....	5,811	35,882	2,013	10,375
Other articles.....	71,018	8,075	25,542	937
Total.....		402,439		398,670
Cattle.....number..	6,496	30,777	9,613	45,699
Other animals.....do...	309	998	237	924
Total.....		434,214		440,293

Value of imports at Ciudad Bolivar during the years 1900-1901.

Country.	Value.	
	1900.	1901.
Trinidad (principally transit from the United Kingdom, United States, etc.)..	£259,166	£254,234
Germany direct.....	8,633	9,786
United States direct.....		2,125
Total.....	262,799	266,096

COMMERCE IN 1902.

Imports from New York in 1902.—During the fiscal year 1901-2 (July, 1901, to June, 1902, inclusive), the shipments from the city of New York to Venezuelan ports, according to data furnished by the consul-general of Venezuela at New York, consisted of 663,120 packages of merchandise, weighing 31,649,061 kilograms, valued at 14,992,209.95 bolívares (\$2,893,496.52), as compared with merchandise having a value of 19,096,476.45 bolívares (\$3,685,619.95) shipped in 1900-1901. This commerce was carried on in 116 steamships and 6 sailing vessels, and the total number of invoices during the year referred to amounted to 3,444.

The following table is a detailed statement of the shipments of merchandise for the year 1901-2:

Articles.	Packages.	Weight.	Value.
		<i>Kilos.</i>	<i>Bolivers.</i>
Axes and agricultural implements.....	1,747	55,211.56	81,111.65
Barbed wire.....	21,164	867,564.00	232,887.80
Beer and hops.....	328	22,451.90	11,668.00
Blankets.....	2,450	312,490.50	1,018,989.00
Butter.....	5,889	314,497.50	422,791.55
Cement (roman).....	3,111	525,233.00	24,165.00
Coal.....	5,700	700,953.00	21,935.00
Cordage.....	12,723	363,156.60	386,082.65
Cotton drill, white and colored.....	1,273	177,237.75	424,156.55
Crude cotton drill and canvas.....	2,109	218,264.00	417,455.65
Drugs and perfumes.....	5,748	307,623.13	581,443.90
Fine hardware, etc.....	180,991	1,325,978.71	975,018.50
Flour.....	158,522	10,593,026.00	2,268,681.95
Forage.....	616	34,862.00	6,280.25
Glass and lamp ware.....	1,928	92,670.72	60,839.95
Groceries.....	38,827	1,527,580.45	879,797.70
Gold coin.....	34	608.60	1,659,835.00
Hardware and carriages.....	22,280	2,015,559.55	786,403.15
Kerosene.....	114,292	4,179,901.00	562,826.25
Lard.....	46,838	2,064,506.00	1,965,469.85
Liquors.....	452	19,111.00	22,189.16
Live animals.....	26	11,109.00	34,610.00
Lumber (undressed).....	11,874	729,864.00	91,465.00
Machinery and electrical supplies.....	8,873	845,116.15	767,704.95
Oils and paints.....	3,240	240,806.35	127,961.50
Printing supplies (paper, machinery, and type).....	1,477	276,367.20	97,187.70
Revolvers.....	4	75.50	1,080.00
Sailcloth and ducking.....	1,294	142,985.50	237,182.10
Sewing machines and parts thereof.....	661	32,843.58	64,846.75
Small fruits.....	49,699	2,482,434.00	418,900.65
Soap and candles.....	6,984	1,081,702.00	142,016.10
Sugar.....	140	7,016.00	4,010.00
Tobacco.....			
Chewing tobacco.....	1,077	28,623.00	59,347.65
Leaf tobacco.....	178	8,362.50	26,810.60
Tobacco fillings.....	630	47,600.00	78,904.45
Manufactured tobacco.....	11	623.00	6,375.00
Total.....	663,120	31,649,060.75	14,992,209.95 a \$2,998,442

a U. S. currency.

The trade of Venezuela with the United States during the calendar year 1902, according to the United States official statistics, was represented by the following figures: Exports from the United States to Venezuela—agricultural implements, \$1,694; carriages, \$13,620; cycles, \$462; cotton cloths, \$460,888; wearing apparel, \$17,328; electric and scientific apparatus, \$28,320; builders' hardware, \$22,682; leather, \$27,406; rosin, tar, etc., \$20,341; turpentine, \$3,488; oils, \$108,870; hams, \$31,154; lard, \$298,888; butter, \$84,363; lumber, \$1,946; furniture, \$8,555.

British official returns of shipments of products to Venezuela during 1902 are limited to exports of cotton manufactures to the value of £182,288.

The general agent of the Hamburg-American Company reported that importation through the port of La Guaira for the year 1902 was carried on by the steamers of the following nationalities, the figures given being for merchandise of various kinds brought into the Republic, exclusive of coal: German, 4,658 tons; English, 2,014 tons; American, 10,971 tons; Spanish, 339 tons; French, 1,393 tons; Dutch, 1,269 tons; a total of 20,644 tons.

Imports from and exports to the United States.—For the first eleven months of the fiscal year ended June 30, 1902, the imports received from the United States by Venezuela aggregated \$2,648,307, as compared with the corresponding period of 1901. Exports from Venezuela to the ports of the United States for the same eleven months' period amounted to \$5,913,225, as against \$6,034,556 for the corresponding months of the preceding year. From these figures it appears that Venezuela exports nearly double the value of goods received from the United States.

Imports from Barcelona in 1902.—The following table, furnished by the Department of Finance and Public Credit of Venezuela, shows the imports through the ports of the Republic from Barcelona (Spain) from July to December, 1902:

Date.	Steam- ers.	Num- ber of pack- ages.	Stock- inet.	Cotton goods.	Provi- sions.	Wines and liquors.	Oils.	Cigar- ette paper.	Writing mate- rials.	Fishing lines.
1902.			Kilos.	Kilos.	Kilos.	Kilos.	Kilos.	Kilos.	Kilos.	Kilos.
July	3	1,794	1,641	733	6,063	44,572	905	5,318		
August	1	1,481	1,587		8,595	25,521	8,506	8,481		1,002
September	1	2,511	3,198	719	13,376	47,491	2,019	7,461	616	
October	2	3,759	1,736	2,306	20,073	46,819	80,545	6,151	541	276
November	2	3,214	2,633	1,238	19,497	62,582	4,532	4,281	380	3,366
December	1	1,484	2,832		644	29,628	2,320	324		
Total	10	14,193	13,572	4,996	68,248	256,563	98,827	31,366	1,537	4,643

Date.	Ima- ges.	Cork.	Bird seed.	Strings and musical instru- ments.	Books and printed matter.	Drugs.	Sundry.	Total weight.	Value.
1902.	Kilos.	Kilos.	Kilos.	Kilos.	Kilos.	Kilos.	Kilos.	Kilos.	
July	293	2		16	1,150		20	60,713	\$16,830
August	648		802	14			77	55,133	12,906
September	80	26	460	149			33,739	109,329	17,148
October	44		1,613	13	209	160	440	180,926	26,015
November	134		582	34	139	192	883	100,422	21,138
December							659	36,407	7,509
Total	1,199	28	3,457	226	1,496	352	35,818	522,930	101,566

Imports from Tenerife in 1902.—The following table, furnished by the Department of Finance and Public Credit of Venezuela, shows the imports through the ports of the Republic from Santa Cruz de Tenerife (Canary Islands) from July to December, 1902:

Date.	Vessels.	Olive oil.	Almonds, hazel- nuts, and peanuts.	Provi- sions.	Wines.	Sundry.	Value.
1902.		Kilos.	Kilos.	Kilos.	Kilos.	Kilos.	
July	1			410	4,480	1,765	α \$348
September	1	52			75	123	165
October	1			12	5,060	1,410	299
November	1		23		6,520		672
Total	4	52	23	422	16,135	3,298	1,484

α 5 bolivars taken as equivalent to the United States dollar.

CARACAS DISTRICT TRADE, 1902.

The British Foreign Office publishes the report on the trade of Venezuela for 1902 by the British consular officers, of which the following is an abstract:

The British acting consul at Caracas reports as follows (abstract):

Coffee exports.—The tables of exports show that, although there was a slight increase in the quantity of coffee and cacao shipped at La Guaira, this in no way counterbalanced the decrease in the shipments from Puerto Cabello and Maracaibo.

Cacao.—Cacao shows an increase of 2,330, 435, and 39 tons, respectively, in the three ports named, and, moreover, the price of the article was sustained at a favorable figure in the European markets; in France, 84 to 88 francs (£3 6s. 6d. to £3 9s. 8d.) was obtained for the ordinary class of cacao. The quality of the Río Chico cacao has lately commanded better prices owing to more careful methods of preparation for the market.

Asphalt.—A new article of export during the last year was asphalt. This comes from a series of mines (or lakes) situated on the shores of the Lake Maracaibo. The concession is being worked by an American company.

Imports.—The figures of imports this year show a great decline, and were this due to home production it would be a favorable sign, but the articles imported have always been those which Venezuela does not produce.

LA GUAIRA TRADE, 1902.

The British vice-consul at La Guaira reports as follows (abstract):

Imports.—There has been a remarkable falling off in all articles imported, and especially is this to be noted in cement, timber, and hardware. Dry goods have decreased about one-third and provisions a little less than half.

Exports.—In the export trade, however, some improvement is to be noted; 224 tons of coffee having been shipped in excess of the quantity sent abroad in 1901. In cacao the increase was much greater, the total showing 2,330 tons or 41,542 bags more than the previous year. The quantity of hides was also 102 tons more than in 1901.

Imports from foreign countries during the years 1901-2.

Articles.	Quantity.			
	1901.		1902.	
	Packages.	Metric tons.	Packages.	Metric tons.
Merchandise.....	137,512	8,610	94,911	5,688
Hardware.....	55,180	2,250	17,332	687
Provisions.....	806,639	17,146	174,258	10,171
Oils (other than kerosene).....	9,108	538	8,806	536
Kerosene.....	55,267	1,940	52,436	1,859
Timber.....	19,110	1,696	8,816	79
Cement.....	20,261	3,419	6,341	1,096
Coal.....		16,674		15,335
Machinery.....	714	129	919	149
Railway materials.....	8,447	562	1,224	117

Exports to foreign countries during the years 1901-2.

Articles.	Quantity.			
	1901.		1902.	
	Packages.	Metric tons.	Packages.	Metric tons.
Coffee in bags.....	120,217	7,290	126,848	7,514
Cacao in bags.....	70,085	3,774	111,627	6,104
Rides.....	80,068	782	91,630	884
Sundries.....	8,517	67	7,687	410

Coasting trade during the years 1901-2.

Articles.	1901.		1902.	
	Importation.	Exportation.	Importation.	Exportation.
	Metric tons.	Metric tons.	Metric tons.	Metric tons.
Merchandise.....	14,055	5,564	14,054	4,052
Timber.....	2,741		330	
Coal.....	248		78	9

Foreign imports, showing countries from which goods were shipped during the years 1901-2.

Country.	Quantity.			
	1901.		1902.	
	Packages.	Metric tons.	Packages.	Metric tons.
Germany.....	152,082	7,666	97,250	4,840
Spain.....	87,398	1,539	24,662	972
United States.....	306,584	24,613	178,630	12,260
France.....	23,705	1,567	10,324	729
Netherlands.....	34,646	3,680	21,552	1,272
United Kingdom.....	42,968	13,077	17,398	13,961
Italy.....	12,692	812	7,737	496
Belgium.....	8		1,745	1,561
Colombia.....	12	14	8	1
Denmark.....	153	84	2,744	124
Cuba.....			20	1

PUERTO CABELLO TRADE, 1902.

The following is an abstract from the report of the United States consul at Puerto Cabello on the trade of said port for the year 1902:

EXPORTS.

Articles and country of destination.	Quantities.	Value, U. S. currency.
Bluing (pounds):		
France.....	587	\$294.00
Bags (pounds):		
Holland.....	14,300	1,000.00
Coffee (pounds):		
France.....	9,899,328	
Spain.....	1,584,149	
United States.....	1,442,892	
Germany.....	1,309,523	
Holland.....	773,530	
Italy.....	211,274	
Cuba.....	23,400	
Total.....	15,194,096	1,006,359.00
Cacao (pounds):		
France.....	1,293,386	
Spain.....	171,282	
United States.....	138,820	
Germany.....	124,788	

EXPORTS—Continued.

Articles and country of destination.	Quantities.	Value, U. S. currency.
Cacao (pounds)—Continued.		
England	78,432	
Italy	2,390	
Holland	101	
Total	1,809,199	\$267,158.00
Cattle (head):		
Cuba	49,722	
Holland	5,805	
Total	55,527	1,641,264.70
Copra (pounds):		
France	171,689	
Germany	25,682	
Holland	19,269	
Total	216,640	3,806.00
Corn (pounds):		
United States	29,326	265.00
Cotton (pounds):		
France	19,025	
England	14,044	
Total	33,069	2,780.00
Cocconuts (number):		
United States	15,300	
Holland	1,300	
Total	16,600	435.00
Copper, scrap (pounds):		
Italy	19,515	
Germany	11,679	
France	3,514	
Spain	3,384	
Total	38,092	1,946.00
Donkeys (head):		
Cuba	38	1,520.00
Dividivi (pounds):		
Holland	121,440	
Italy	69,864	
Total	191,304	2,400.00
Fruits (pounds):		
Holland	16,585	165.37
Hides, deer (pounds):		
United States	47,134	
France	253	
Total	47,387	11,437.11
Hides, goat (pounds):		
United States	258,928	
France	227,416	
Holland	615	
Total	486,959	107,776.49
Hides, oxen (pounds):		
United States	1,135,138	
Holland	21,976	
France	3,454	
Total	1,160,568	176,100.17
Horses (head):		
Cuba	95	
Holland	5	
Total	100	2,000.00
Horns (pounds):		
Italy	9,156	
Germany	6,912	

姓名	性别	年龄	籍贯	职业	住址	备注
王德胜	男	45	山东	工人	XX路XX号	
李小明	男	30	河南	学生	XX路XX号	
张小红	女	25	江苏	教师	XX路XX号	
赵大刚	男	50	河北	干部	XX路XX号	
孙小丽	女	35	浙江	医生	XX路XX号	
周国强	男	40	湖北	农民	XX路XX号	
吴小芳	女	20	四川	学生	XX路XX号	
郑大伟	男	38	广东	商人	XX路XX号	
冯小娟	女	28	湖南	护士	XX路XX号	
陈大刚	男	42	福建	工人	XX路XX号	
林小华	女	32	江西	教师	XX路XX号	
周国强	男	48	山西	干部	XX路XX号	
吴小娟	女	22	广西	学生	XX路XX号	
郑大伟	男	36	云南	商人	XX路XX号	
冯小娟	女	26	贵州	护士	XX路XX号	
陈大刚	男	44	海南	工人	XX路XX号	
林小华	女	34	宁夏	教师	XX路XX号	
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IMPORTS—Continued.

Articles and countries of origin.	Quantity.	Articles and countries of origin.	Quantity.
	<i>Pounds.</i>		<i>Pounds.</i>
Acid—Continued.		Cinnamon bark: United States	8,661
Muriatic—		Creolene: Germany	5,629
Germany	257		
United States	253	Confectionery:	
Total	510	France	9,721
Sulphuric—United States	5,205	England	4,179
Bran: United States	1,066	Germany	3,823
		United States	2,686
Brewing supplies:		Spain	1,695
United States	486	Italy	440
England	50	Total	22,544
Total	536		
Blacking: United States	400	Cement:	
		Germany	427,845
Bottles:		England	395,210
United States	1,931	United States	154,864
Germany	2,625	Holland	39,549
Holland	1,542	Total	1,017,468
England	930		
Spain	15	Corks: Germany	68
Total	6,043		
Bluing:		Coal for private use:	
Germany	4,184	England	603,504
United States	765	Germany	19,373
Total	4,949	Total	622,877
Books:			
Germany	1,036	Cigarettes: United States	365
United States	233		
France	77	Crackers:	
Total	1,346	United States	59,621
Barley: Germany	4,586	Germany	24,038
		England	1,676
Beer:		Spain	852
Germany	201,255	France	116
England	65,216	Total	86,303
United States	200		
Total	266,671	Cornstarch: United States	28,694
Butter:			
United States	154,270	Candles:	
Germany	105,017	United States	13,051
Holland	3,733	Germany	798
Italy	583	Total	13,849
Total	263,603		
Brown linen:		Cereals: United States	323,724
Germany	12,119		
England	10,441	Cordage:	
Total	22,560	Spain	2,519
		United States	1,419
Carts, hand: United States	1,170	Italy	1,075
Carriages: United States	1,392	Germany	600
		Total	5,613
Canary seed:		Copper plate:	
Germany	5,478	Germany	838
France	811	England	145
Spain	695	Total	983
Total	6,984		
Canned goods:		Corn: United States	163,658
France	12,035		
Germany	10,467	Cheese:	
United States	8,524	Holland	62,569
Italy	2,725	Germany	5,835
England	1,161	France	2,239
Spain	253	Italy	1,906
Holland	52	Spain	763
Total	35,217	United States	398
		England	41
		Total	73,751
		Demijohns:	
		Germany	13,850
		Italy	292
		Total	14,142

IMPORTS—Continued.

Articles and countries of origin.	Quantity.	Articles and countries of origin.	Quantity.
	<i>Pounds.</i>		<i>Pounds.</i>
Dry goods:		Gum:	
England	993,790	Germany	1,326
Germany	336,358	France	682
United States	283,144	Italy	587
Holland	148,062	Total	2,596
France	71,293		
Spain	33,763	Hardware:	
Italy	9,888	Germany	216,728
Total	1,875,298	England	92,964
		United States	88,565
Drugs and medicines:		France	16,888
Holland	196,384	Italy	1,245
Germany	94,558	Holland	134
United States	52,673	Total	416,514
England	30,861		
France	19,729	Hams:	
Italy	145	United States	52,984
Spain	132	Germany	966
Total	394,982	England	129
		Total	53,871
Disinfectant: Germany	11,459		
		Hats and materials:	
Electric-light materials:		Germany	2,641
United States	29,806	England	3,583
England	22,323	Italy	991
Total	51,629	France	490
		United States	107
Earthenware:		Total	11,592
Germany	261,915	Hops, United States	220
France	8,179		
England	2,640	Ink, writing and printing:	
United States	801	Germany	3,898
Total	268,085	United States	827
		France	266
Epsom salts:		Total	4,991
Germany	12,102		
United States	5,583	Iron and zinc, galvanized:	
England	503	England	13,496
Total	18,188	Germany	3,737
		United States	1,999
Flour:		Total	19,232
United States	2,733,514		
Germany	63	Leather:	
Total	2,733,577	Germany	7,435
		France	2,074
Furniture:		United States	2,043
England	2,812	Italy	490
United States	1,823	Total	12,042
Germany	1,277		
Total	5,412	Lumber, United States	14,918
Fruits, dried:		Lampwicks:	
France	8,680	United States	2,270
United States	4,050	France	2,026
Italy	4,049	Germany	1,220
Spain	1,260	Holland	118
Germany	1,012	Total	5,634
England	30		
Total	19,061	Lard, United States	270,210
Fish, dried:		Liquors:	
United States	28,005	France	68,859
Germany	1,152	Germany	18,299
Italy	604	Holland	1,861
France	256	England	1,817
Holland	153	Spain	596
Total	30,169	United States	41
		Total	85,963
Firecrackers, United States	1,735		
Glue, Germany	2,153	Liquors, sweet:	
Guns, United States	99	England	9,345
		Spain	3,276

IMPORTS—Continued.

Articles and countries of origin.	Quantity.	Articles and countries of origin.	Quantity.
Liquors, sweet—Continued.	<i>Pounds.</i>	Oil—Continued.	<i>Pounds.</i>
France.....	2,126	Linseed—Continued.	
Germany.....	222	Holland.....	1,764
Holland.....	176	United States.....	1,730
United States.....	112	Total.....	9,422
Italy.....	79		
Total.....	15,385	Machinery—	
Lavender water:		United States.....	33,921
Spain.....	506	Germany.....	4,078
France.....	96	Total.....	37,999
Total.....	602	Oilecloth, United States.....	455
Miscellaneous:		Onions:	
United States.....	9,589	Germany.....	7,495
Germany.....	9,222	United States.....	1,946
France.....	687	Spain.....	1,067
England.....	765	Total.....	10,508
Italy.....	472	Oakum, United States.....	939
Spain.....	52		
Total.....	21,237	Pickles:	
Matches, Germany.....	28,007	England.....	24,665
Meat, salted, United States.....	1,986	Holland.....	5,830
		France.....	3,119
		Germany.....	67
Machinery:		Total.....	33,681
United States.....	18,684	Paint:	
Germany.....	6,879	United States.....	10,408
Italy.....	2,868	Germany.....	9,464
England.....	822	Holland.....	1,555
France.....	77	England.....	1,163
Total.....	29,830	France.....	517
Monuments:		Total.....	23,102
Italy.....	19,571	Paper:	
Germany.....	1,320	Germany.....	263,095
Total.....	20,891	Spain.....	18,908
Milk, condensed:		Holland.....	12,695
Germany.....	574	France.....	9,657
United States.....	198	Italy.....	7,459
England.....	52	United States.....	3,957
Total.....	824	England.....	2,508
Olives:		Total.....	318,274
France.....	16,587	Potatoes:	
Spain.....	14,845	United States.....	35,382
United States.....	6,922	Germany.....	27,277
Italy.....	1,236	France.....	1,320
England.....	85	Total.....	63,979
Total.....	39,675	Perfumery:	
Oatmeal:		France.....	8,790
United States.....	2,267	Germany.....	6,064
Germany.....	160	United States.....	5,515
Total.....	2,427	Italy.....	149
Orange-flower water, France.....	2,237	Total.....	20,518
Oil:		Phonographs, United States.....	147
Kerosene, United States.....	2,056,225	Plaster paris, Spain.....	393
Sweet—		Playing cards:	
Italy.....	118,582	Germany.....	466
Spain.....	20,750	Spain.....	231
France.....	17,854	England.....	231
United States.....	6,419	Total.....	928
Germany.....	1,307	Pasteboard books.	
Total.....	164,912	Germany.....	424
Linseed—		France.....	374
Germany.....	4,905	Total.....	798
England.....	2,023		

IMPORTS—Continued.

Articles and countries of origin.	Quantity.	Articles and countries of origin.	Quantity.
	<i>Pounds.</i>		<i>Pounds.</i>
Photograph supplies, United States.....	268	Shoe materials—Continued.	
Rice:		Germany.....	429
Germany.....	2,010,403	England.....	57
United States.....	10,042	Total.....	1,499
Holland.....	9,917		
Italy.....	2,138	Sago, Germany.....	8,324
Total.....	2,032,500		
Rope, United States.....	116,088	Stearine and paraffin:	
Rosin, United States.....	514,797	Holland.....	142,117
		Germany.....	15,386
Railway supplies:		United States.....	1,003
England.....	120,771	Total.....	158,506
United States.....	629		
Total.....	121,400	Spirits of turpentine, United States.....	1,678
Seeds:			
United States.....	9,321	Soda, caustic:	
Germany.....	4,147	England.....	111,781
Italy.....	501	United States.....	27,160
Spain.....	497	Germany.....	306
France.....	193	Total.....	139,246
Total.....	14,659		
Sirups:		Scales, United States.....	2,815
Spain.....	602		
France.....	127	Tobacco:	
Total.....	729	United States.....	25,249
		Spain.....	1,452
Strings, musical instruments:		Germany.....	52
Spain.....	435	Total.....	26,753
Germany.....	28		
France.....	13	Tar:	
Total.....	476	Germany.....	7,396
Statuary, Spain.....	853	United States.....	5,163
Spices:		Total.....	12,559
Germany.....	28,110		
Spain.....	16,400	Twine:	
United States.....	15,729	United States.....	20,990
France.....	14,090	Germany.....	11,888
Italy.....	8,845	Italy.....	5,712
Total.....	83,174	Spain.....	875
		England.....	613
Sugar:		France.....	607
United States.....	228	Total.....	40,705
Germany.....	118		
Total.....	346	Timber, pine, United States.....	18,315
Sardines:		Tallow, United States.....	803
Spain.....	42,391	Type, printers', United States.....	33
Germany.....	25,671		
France.....	11,820	Toys:	
Italy.....	506	United States.....	125
Total.....	80,388	France.....	96
		Germany.....	44
Stationery:		Total.....	265
United States.....	576		
Germany.....	167	Tea:	
France.....	57	Germany.....	55
Total.....	800	England.....	28
Sausage:		Total.....	83
Germany.....	1,101		
Italy.....	980	Thread:	
United States.....	203	England.....	2,120
France.....	121	United States.....	2,035
Total.....	2,405	Germany.....	638
Shoe materials:		France.....	576
France.....	1,013	Total.....	5,369
		Vinegar:	
		France.....	3,227
		Germany.....	1,027
		Spain.....	380
		Total.....	4,634

IMPORTS—Continued.

Articles and countries of origin.	Quantity.	Articles and countries of origin.	Quantity.
	<i>Pounds.</i>		<i>Pounds.</i>
Vegetables:		Wire, barbed, United States.....	190,528
Spain.....	1,320	Wines:	
United States.....	415	Spain.....	553,555
France.....	219	France.....	163,059
Germany.....	118	Italy.....	81,808
Total.....	2,072	Germany.....	6,542
Vermicelli, United States.....	3,654	England.....	3,226
		Holland.....	715
Water, mineral:		Total.....	808,905
Germany.....	33,235	Yarn:	
France.....	4,478	Germany.....	334
Italy.....	3,388	England.....	321
Spain.....	308	Total.....	655
England.....	50		
Total.....	41,459		

Total imports, all countries.

Country.	Quantity.	Value, U. S. currency.
	<i>Pounds.</i>	
England.....	2,680,083	\$278,626.43
United States.....	7,678,652	277,470.22
Germany.....	4,406,869	258,084.95
Spain.....	721,658	76,291.48
Holland.....	636,984	69,995.87
France.....	479,155	62,446.10
Italy.....	279,314	20,067.21
Total.....	16,882,675	1,042,982.26

The imports for 1902 show that England leads in trade in the consular district of Puerto Cabello. The United States, Germany, Spain, Holland, France, and Italy follow; but when compared with 1901 there is a decrease in the total imports of \$1,328,467.26.

The British vice-consul reports as follows (abstract):

Imports amounted to—

From—	Value.	
	Currency.	Sterling.
	<i>Bolivars.</i>	<i>£ s. d.</i>
United Kingdom.....	338,719.36	13,414 12 0
United States.....	767,713.89	30,404 10 2
Germany.....	341,596.21	13,528 11 0
France.....	216,451.02	8,572 4 8
Netherlands.....	120,877.94	4,787 5 0
Italy.....	14,829.84	587 6 8
Spain.....	81,735.08	3,237 1 0
Total.....	1,881,923.34	74,531 10 6

Against—

From—	Value.					
	1901.			Average, five years.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
United Kingdom.....	64,320	3	5	112,893	15	0
United States.....	51,506	0	1	98,110	14	11
Germany.....	63,476	11	3	76,386	4	2
France.....	34,629	1	0	48,156	10	0
Netherlands.....	32,583	5	2	24,267	11	1
Italy.....	4,381	7	11	7,040	18	6
Spain.....	3,432	3	1	9,622	3	9
Other countries.....	607	8	9	1,809	11	4
Total.....	254,886	0	8	373,277	8	9

Cattle.—Only 1,968 head of cattle were shipped to Cuba and the other islands, against 66,049 head in 1901 and 18,774 head in 1900.

The number of vessels from foreign ports entered and cleared during the year 1901 was also considerably less, viz:

Nationality.	Number of vessels.	
	Steam.	Sailing.
French.....	61	.....
German.....	35	.....
British.....	15	.....
American.....	25	.....
Dutch.....	45	.....
Italian.....	7	.....
Spanish.....	12	.....
Russian.....	.....	1
Norwegian.....	2	8
Total.....	202	4

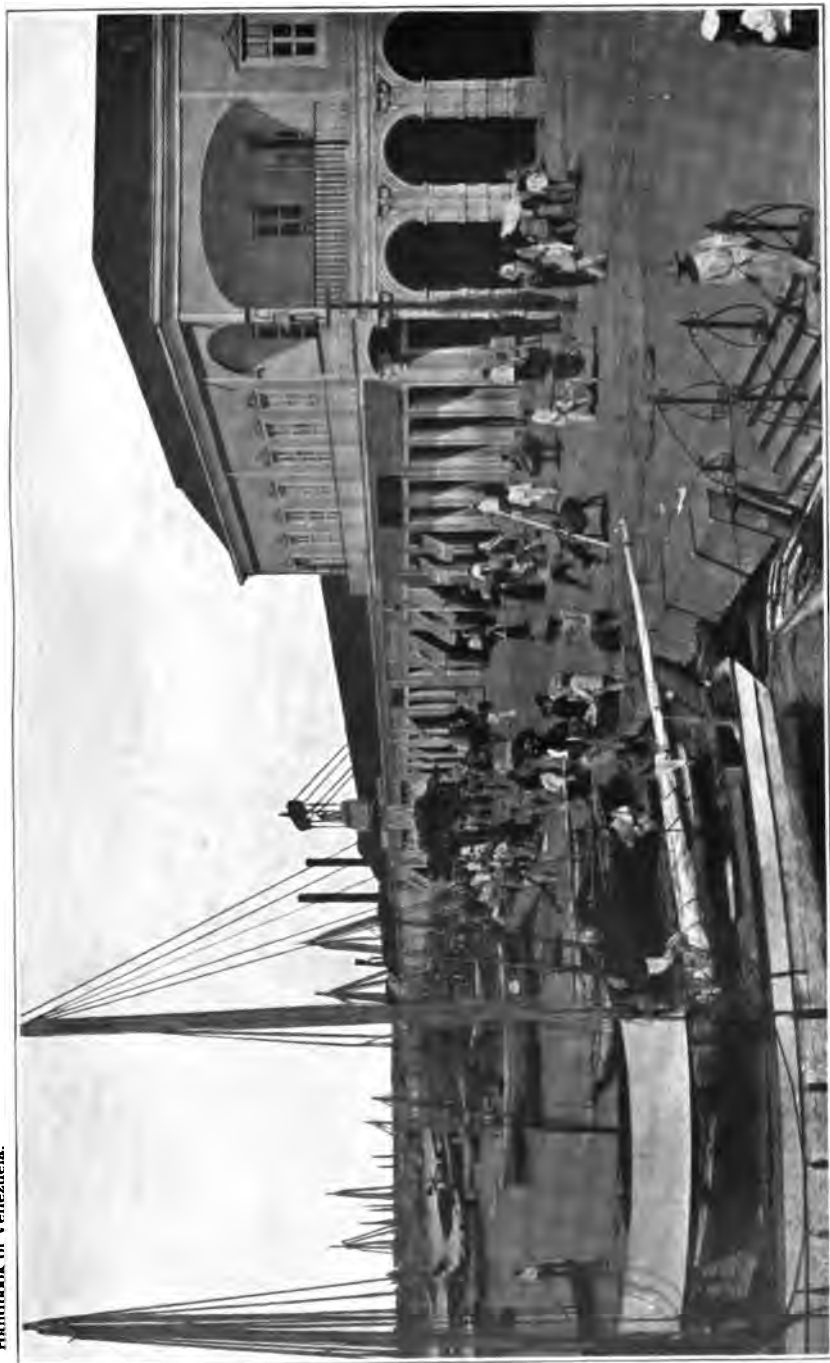
MARACAIBO TRADE, 1902.

The United States consul at Maracaibo reports on the trade of said port for 1902, of which the following is an abstract:

Coffee.—Coffee is the principal staple export. The coffee business increased in importance this last year, amounting in exportation to 55,700 tons in 1901, 45,500 in 1900, and 44,000 in 1899. The abolishing of the export duties since May 1 has also favored shipments. The coffee produced in these regions can be sold more profitably in the United States than elsewhere. The Táchira coffee, once confused with that of Cúcuta, is to-day in demand. The washed qualities of Mérida coffee, dark green, are in request in all the markets, but especially in London and Hamburg. Some kinds of Boconó are profitable. The Trujillo coffee is the cheapest, due to the irregularity in the size of the grain and the difference in color.

Coffee has sold during the year 1901, according to its origin and its quality, as follows:

	Cents.
January.....	6½ to 9½
February.....	6 to 9
March.....	6½ to 9½



NEW MARINA STREET, MARACAIBO.
(Courtesy of the Zulia Government.)

	Cents.
April.....	6 to 9
May.....	6½ to 9
June.....	
July.....	
August.....	6 to 8½
September.....	
October.....	7 to 10½
November.....	7½ to 11
December.....	7½ to 10½

The very good qualities have obtained better prices.

The coffee grower suffers from lack of transportation facilities.

Only in the quality of the product have we certain advantages over other producing countries.

Cacao.—The exportation of this article has been as follows:

Year.	Bags.	Tons.	Year.	Bags.	Tons.
1898.....	3,002	140	1900.....	3,960	188
1899.....	2,630	123	1901.....	2,639	124

Most of the exports have come from Mérida State, as this quality is much demanded by consumers on account of the regular size of the bean and its superior quality.

The resolution of the National Government abolishing the export duties has been of great help to the planter.

The great Guayaquil (Ecuador) crop in the year 1901-2 lowered prices, and it is probable that there will be no profit during this year in the crop of this State and of Mérida.

Woods.—In the last two years the shipments of lapatera wood have increased to such an extent that 6,000 tons were sent abroad during that period. This quantity being in excess of the consumption of foreign markets, depression followed, so that, instead of \$11 or \$12, cutters can now hardly obtain \$8 or \$9.

Ebony.—This wood does not have the consistency, fineness, or color of that which comes from Africa. It has a limited consumption in Europe, almost none in the United States. The quantity exported this year is estimated at 1,000 tons. The cutters of this wood eight or ten years ago obtained \$10 to \$12 per ton for small lots, but this price has declined year by year until now the highest value obtainable is \$7 per ton.

Vera.—Owing to the late war in Cuba, guayacán became scarce, and there was a demand for this wood, under the name of "bastard guayacán." Sales were made in England for as much as £5 (\$24) per ton. But as soon as affairs resumed their normal condition in the island, and a supply of the genuine wood came into the market, vera fell so low that it was quoted as unsalable abroad.

Cedar.—This wood is so far removed from the shipping points that not only is it difficult to obtain, but the cost is so high that the exploitation has ceased, and its consumption is limited to La Guaira and Maracaibo. When 18 inches wide and 12 thick, it brings \$2.50 to \$3 per yard. Besides those mentioned no other woods are exported.

Dividivi.—This grows wild in the savannas. The quantity and quality of the crop depend on the rain. Last year about 8,000,000 pounds were exported, including 600,000 pounds from Goagira. The maximum price obtained for the crop was 90 cents per hundred-weight, which, together with the expenses of warehousing, shipping, etc., brought the maximum cost to \$1.10 for the article placed on board for exportation.

Freights.—Owing to the limited number of direct sailing vessels for Europe, the greater part of the wood is exported in schooners to Curaçao and thence by steamships to Europe, the freight being as follows: From Maracaibo to Curaçao, \$3.75 to \$4.25 a ton; from Curaçao to Liverpool, 21 shillings (\$5.10); from Curaçao to Havre, Hamburg, Amsterdam, etc., 24 to 25 shillings (\$5.83 to \$6.08) per ton of 2,240 pounds. Small quantities for New York are shipped via Curaçao, in steamers and sailing vessels, at a cost of \$3.

India rubber.—Various attempts have been made to develop this industry, but none has given the results expected. The climate and soil are favorable to the cultivation of the plant, which is found wild in many forests of the State. By planting fruit trees with it a remunerative return could be obtained within a few years.

The average quality exported in the year 1901 sold as follows: In Germany, 3 marks (\$0.71) a half kilo (1.1 lbs.); in the United States, 60 cents a pound. A French specialist classified samples sent him as "first-class gum badly prepared."

Cattle.—Venezuela has extensive lands on the margins of her rivers (which retain their waters during all seasons of the year), of abundant pasturage, and of facilities for obtaining excellent cattle for food. Some ranches have been started along the rivers Escalante, Zulia, Motatán, and Limón, and have given good results. The same may be said in the districts of Bolivar, Miranda, and Perijá, where there also exist very good lands for the establishment of large farms.

The market takes monthly from 750 to 800 head of cattle, and the price to-day is the average which has been maintained during the past two years, namely, \$2 per arroba (25 pounds) for fat meat and \$1.25 for lean.

Salt.—Salt is imported from Coche, packed in sacks of 125 pounds net, and brought in schooners. It is then distributed through the State of Táchira and a part of the department of Santander, in the Republic of Colombia. The salt from the mines of Coche is white and firm.

This year 1,158 tons have been imported from Coche.

The salt which is consumed in this State and in Trujillo and Mérida is obtained from the districts known as "La Hoyada," "Salina Rica," and "El Caño." For the most part it is yellowish in color. White salt is also obtained from the island of San Carlos, but it is inferior to that of Ceiba.

The salt is generally packed in gunny sacks and then in packages of 105 pounds, gross weight.

The income obtained by the nation from the salt mines of this State is very considerable. During the year 1901, 3,363 tons were exported, which paid duty amounting almost to \$190,000. In the quantity exported must be included 598 tons sent to the government of Tachira by order of the nation. The remainder was for the greater part destined for the State of Trujillo.

The British vice-consul at Maracaibo reports as follows (abstract):

Exports of coffee at Maracaibo during the years 1902-1898.

Year.	Quantity.	
	Bags.	Tons.
1902.....	294, 880	17, 698
1901.....	422, 386	25, 626
1900.....	345, 471	20, 050
1899.....	344, 328	20, 268
1898.....	441, 579	26, 494

The average price of coffee per 100 pounds f. o. b. Maracaibo may be calculated at £1 6s., the same as in 1901 and 1900, against £1 5s. for 1899, £1 7s. for 1898, and £2 4s. for 1897. During the whole year coffee was free of export duty.

The value of coffee exported in 1902 amounted to £443,460, against £591,112 in 1901, £540,707 in 1900, £543,243 in 1899, and £772,584 in 1898.

Hides.—The value of hides exported amounted in 1902 to £21,860, against £22,800 in 1901.

Cacao.—The value of cacao exported amounted only to about £8,600 in 1902.

Asphalt.—During the last six months of 1902 there were exported about 3,355 tons of asphalt. The United States and Venezuelan Company is working the mines, a railroad from the mines to the shore of the lake has been built by them, and they hope to ship very soon about 2,000 tons monthly. They ship crude and also refined asphaltum.

General produce from Maracaibo during the year 1902.

Month.	Coffee.	Cacao.	Quina bark.	Hides.	Goat-skins.	Deer-skins.
	<i>Kilos.</i>	<i>Kilos.</i>	<i>Kilos.</i>	<i>Kilos.</i>	<i>Kilos.</i>	<i>Kilos.</i>
January.....	939, 183	16, 981	.....	35, 802	11, 949	157
February.....	1, 517, 793	37, 640	.....	43, 385	9, 493	254
March.....	2, 060, 045	27, 668	.....	46, 616	13, 368	681
April.....	1, 562, 458	7, 902	.....	30, 060	9, 902	579
May.....	1, 849, 197	33, 892	1, 020	32, 411	8, 690	371
June.....	971, 759	26, 785	.....	17, 481	12, 938	418
July.....	871, 535	16, 791	1, 386	26, 082	8, 808	378
August.....	1, 921, 540	9, 681	.....	47, 261	13, 463	591
September.....	1, 353, 679	.....	.....	41, 673	8, 588	239
October.....	1, 851, 443	.....	.....	41, 830	18, 764	290
November.....	1, 093, 581	.....	1, 489	33, 315	13, 027	478
December.....	1, 710, 674	16, 222	675	46, 424	17, 964	294
Total.....	17, 692, 832	193, 562	4, 470	442, 290	146, 837	4, 730
Total, 1901.....	25, 626, 629	154, 061	6, 252	456, 258	138, 860	7, 820

Month.	Copalba.	Fustic.	Divi-divi.	Brown sugar.	Fish sounds.	Asphaltum.
	<i>Kilos.</i>	<i>Kilos.</i>	<i>Kilos.</i>	<i>Kilos.</i>	<i>Kilos.</i>	<i>Kilos.</i>
January.....	1, 775	723, 141	.....	40, 246	2, 273	.....
February.....	2, 471	1, 495, 170	446, 500	50, 144	5, 636	.....
March.....	3, 174	1, 569, 311	486, 508	26, 966	17, 567	.....
April.....	1, 310	1, 091, 429	.....	53, 472	3, 969	.....
May.....	5, 010	609, 148	11, 600	44, 330	1, 812	.....
June.....	936	482, 986	115, 000	20, 118	316	.....
July.....	4, 123	576, 050	266, 809	36, 350	371	124, 898
August.....	2, 392	856, 365	29, 080	57, 775	2, 952	1, 105, 124
September.....	3, 996	1, 066, 647	.....	37, 660	5, 124	.....
October.....	5, 036	396, 957	.....	36, 580	2, 356	573, 480
November.....	5, 278	196, 020	239, 386	44, 930	1, 047	900, 678
December.....	3, 634	167, 498	233, 400	78, 340	1, 757	650, 566
Total.....	39, 135	9, 229, 722	1, 827, 678	571, 901	45, 169	3, 354, 746
Total, 1901.....	40, 807	6, 272, 684	3, 368, 183	283, 683	35, 970	.....

CIUDAD BOLIVAR TRADE, 1902.

Exports of Ciudad Bolivar, 1901-2.—The following is a summary of the exports of Ciudad Bolivar in 1901 and 1902, though much of the trade of the Delta does not pass through Ciudad Bolivar, being carried on direct with Trinidad and British Guiana:

	1901.	1902.
Gold.....	£70, 000	£10, 700
Rubber.....
Balata gum.....
Plumes and feathers.....
Copalba balsam.....
Tonka beans.....
Coffee.....
Cacao.....
Tobacco.....
Horns and skins.....
Live animals.....

Orinoco trade.—The Board of Trade Journal for July 30, 1903, publishes the following information relative to trade between Trinidad and the Orinoco, as furnished to the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade by the collector of customs at Port of Spain, Trinidad.

Of the many channels through which the Orinoco reaches the sea only two are of value for purposes of navigation—the Gran Boca, to the extreme south, and the Macareo. The former is alone accessible to ocean-going vessels, and the depth over the bar is from 4 to 5 meters. The depth of the river itself varies with the season, and in the dry season, from November to April, the channel below Ciudad Bolivar has in places less than 3 meters of water.

Only a few ocean-going vessels enter the Orinoco. A couple of small sailing vessels reach Ciudad Bolivar every year from Hamburg with general cargoes, and a couple with provisions from New York, and a small steamer trades once a month with Cayenne, the chief business being the exportation of horned cattle.

The great bulk of the Orinoco trade is carried on through Trinidad, which is opposite to and only a few miles from the Delta. There cargo is transferred to or from river steamers having a draft of about 3 meters. These are able, without leaving smooth water, to enter the Macareo, and by that channel to reach Ciudad Bolivar, which is about 482 kilometers from Port of Spain, contains 10,000 inhabitants, and is the only town of consequence on the Orinoco. Up to about two years ago the navigation of the Macareo was the subject of an exclusive concession. The last holders, an English (now an American) company, have a fleet of eight stern-wheel steamers, two of which connect Trinidad with Ciudad Bolivar, while the others share the trade of the upper river and its chief branches with a small steamer or two owned by Ciudad Bolivar merchants and with innumerable *lanchas*, *bungos*, *balandras*, and *piraguas*, craft ranging from 5 to 30 tons and carrying from six to eight men. The same company has a small steamer plying above the Maipure Rapids as far as San Carlos, on the Río Negro, where that great branch of the Amazon is joined to the Orinoco by the Casiquiare. Orinoco trade is for the most part centered in Ciudad Bolivar, formerly known as Angostura. The merchants of that town, who are mainly German and Corsican, and include only one British and one American firm, have connections at every point of consequence on the river and its tributaries.

COMMERCE IN 1903.

The aggregate value of foreign articles imported through the custom-houses of Venezuela during the fiscal year 1902-3 from New York, Liverpool, Hamburg, Bordeaux, Habana, and Santander, according to official data furnished by the Department of Finance and Public Credit of Venezuela, amounted to \$6,115,813, as shown by the following six tables and summary:

Imports from New York, 1903.—The Department of Finance and Public Credit of Venezuela furnished the following table showing the

imports through the ports of Venezuela from the port of New York during the fiscal year 1902-3:

Articles.	Packages.	Kilograms.	Value.
Oils and paints.....	4, 278	338, 669, 850	a \$34, 367
Barbed wire.....	7, 251	365, 845, 500	22, 033
Live animals.....	22	3, 724	724
Sugar.....	101	8, 833	848
Cartridges.....	14	940	498
Coal.....	3, 165	1, 301, 437	6, 080
Cement (Roman).....	353	62, 731	785
Beer and hops.....	188	4, 130, 900	1, 372
Cordage.....	14, 330	434, 957, 500	88, 661
Cotton drill:			
Colored and white.....	2, 048	286, 254, 250	130, 106
Rough.....	3, 877	336, 282, 500	124, 925
Drugs and perfumes.....	6, 712	320, 876, 700	137, 039
Hardware.....	10, 862	916, 938, 300	93, 265
Forage.....	542	35, 080	1, 561
Cereals.....	5, 563	318, 400	19, 384
Fulminants.....	15	425	371
Axes and agricultural instruments.....	1, 011	29, 152, 100	10, 467
Flour.....	150, 099	10, 605, 585, 500	492, 858
Printing and supplies.....	1, 512	229, 528, 850	16, 040
Soap and candles.....	10, 837	1, 669, 464	49, 292
Kerosene.....	116, 172	4, 183, 112	122, 420
Liquors.....	570	22, 177	4, 919
Sailcloth and canvas.....	1, 353	151, 879, 250	59, 964
Lumber, rough.....	1, 902	231, 688	4, 296
Lard.....	33, 894	1, 791, 979, 500	339, 674
Butter.....	6, 769	354, 373, 900	103, 681
Sewing machines and supplies.....	401	21, 738	7, 716
Electric machinery and supplies.....	6, 627	495, 166, 650	92, 285
Shot.....	100	4, 566	367
Gold coin.....	99	670, 200	370, 650
Cigarette fillings.....	879	71, 170	23, 681
Silver coin.....	158	21, 518	320, 000
Millinery.....	7, 154	439, 330, 070	144, 212
Revolvers.....	1	68	1, 030
Salts of niter.....	85	6, 917	680
Chewing tobacco.....	124	1, 625	861
Leaf tobacco.....	99	4, 950	3, 212
Manufactured tobacco.....	5	159	717
Glassware.....	1, 207	52, 977, 500	12, 585
Provisions.....	31, 587	1, 095, 605	149, 205
Lawn prints.....	5, 839	467, 638	265, 344
Total.....	437, 745	26, 688, 609, 020	3, 234, 424

a Five bolivars taken as equivalent to the United States dollar.

Imports from Liverpool in 1903.—The following table, furnished by the Department of Finance and Public Credit of Venezuela, shows the imports through the ports of the Republic from the port of Liverpool, England, during the fiscal year 1902-3:

Month.	Vessels.	Number of packages.	Cotton goods.	Hard-ware.	Provi-sions.	Liquors.	Glass-ware.
1902.			<i>Kilos.</i>	<i>Kilos.</i>	<i>Kilos.</i>	<i>Kilos.</i>	<i>Kilos.</i>
July.....	2	2, 973	42, 741	90, 692	10, 969	6, 069	.....
August.....	5	1, 846	112, 591	40, 256	3, 123	4, 492	.....
September.....	4	1, 704	136, 618	18, 431	1, 573	3, 033	.....
October.....	4	4, 174	186, 203	47, 031	7, 272	15, 170	.....
November.....	4	11, 869	278, 441	48, 963	1, 779	3, 591	.....
December.....	3	1, 528	171, 793	15, 387	1, 762	5, 576	.....
1903.							
February.....	4	3, 209	204, 070	42, 911	8, 587	12, 866	407
March.....	6	5, 857	193, 262	92, 389	7, 356	3, 499	.....
April.....	6	3, 569	383, 241	52, 498	3, 432	3, 708	.....
May.....	6	5, 359	227, 334	73, 973	15, 796	1, 427	.....
June.....	6	8, 191	426, 317	119, 560	12, 848	18, 697	.....
Total.....	50	50, 269	2, 362, 611	642, 081	74, 497	78, 128	407

Month.	Oils.	Soda.	Coal.	Sundry.	Total weight.	Value.
	<i>Kilos.</i>	<i>Kilos.</i>	<i>Kilos.</i>	<i>Kilos.</i>	<i>Kilos.</i>	
1902.						
July.....	676	20,430		7,973	179,550	\$41,811
August.....		20,241		8,389	189,092	65,561
September.....	2,621	2,618		8,840	173,734	72,599
October.....	1,580	57,674	103,530	37,919	456,379	119,556
November.....	427	260		56,616	390,067	128,816
December.....	210	31,153		7,784	233,665	104,626
1903.						
February.....		13,367		1,585	283,743	134,300
March.....	827	52,211		45,491	395,035	124,895
April.....	1,799	22,750		13,608	481,036	235,440
May.....		29,829		19,724	368,083	163,120
June.....	246	39,497		81,069	698,224	269,500
Total.....	8,386	290,080	108,530	288,938	3,848,608	1,499,814

^a Five bolivars taken as equivalent of the United States dollar.

Imports from Hamburg in 1903.—The following table, furnished by the Department of Finance and Public Credit of Venezuela, shows the imports through the ports of the Republic from Hamburg, Germany, during the fiscal year 1902-3:

Month.	Vessels.	Number of packages.	Cotton goods.	Provisions.	Hard-ware and millinery.	Machines.
			<i>Kilos.</i>	<i>Kilos.</i>	<i>Kilos.</i>	<i>Kilos.</i>
1902.						
July.....	4	17,281	228	4,984	2,164	24
August.....	4	8,476	118	3,719	163	
September.....	4	10,084	475	5,006	279	13
October.....	3	9,828	269	4,061	255	4
November.....	5	16,104	296	6,629	256	15
December.....	4	27,084	330	11,224	2,276	2
1903.						
January.....	2	319	18	201		
February.....	4	32,810	832	12,954	794	89
March.....	4	7,444	121	1,789	341	14
April.....	3	14,925	246	6,195	406	36
May.....	5	26,956	735	10,372	2,192	43
June.....	6	25,869	680	10,395	1,672	12
Total.....	48	199,680	4,848	77,479	10,797	202

Month.	Liquors.	Oils.	Sundry.	Total weight.	Value.
		<i>Kilos.</i>	<i>Kilos.</i>	<i>Kilos.</i>	
1902.					
July.....		428	9,441	784,530	\$121,437
August.....		869	3,400	369,064	59,040
September.....		789	7,673	546,724	97,565
October.....		1,008	3,676	350,908	71,290
November.....		1,886	6,825	689,881	100,940
December.....		2,081	10,996	609,625	132,168
1903.					
January.....		10	88	13,918	1,541
February.....		3,790	13,993	1,069,790	213,639
March.....		340	4,664	373,543	59,909
April.....		819	7,140	544,135	96,942
May.....		3,167	10,330	946,900	130,567
June.....		2,230	10,852	953,628	154,438
Total.....		17,801	88,518	7,252,636	1,277,476

Imports from Bordeaux in 1903.—The following table, furnished by the Department of Finance and Public Credit of Venezuela, shows the

imports through the ports of the Republic from Bordeaux, France, during the fiscal year 1902-3:

Month.	Vessels.	Number of packages.	Cotton goods.	Provisions.	Hardware and millinery.	Machines.
1902.			Kilos.	Kilos.	Kilos.	Kilos.
July	2	156		22		
August	2	218		67		
September	2	337	4	318	2	1
October	2	636	5	269	4	
November	2	283	1	23	3	
December	2	540	1	269	3	
1903.						
February	2	399		556		
March	2	786	7	243		
April	2	376		106		
May	2	403	1	90		6
June	2	563		133		1
Total	22	5,697	19	2,098	12	8

Month.	Liquors.	Oils.	Sundry.	Total weight.	Value.
1902.	Kilos.	Kilos.	Kilos.	Kilos.	
July	126		8	26,102	a \$4,478
August	114	15	22	16,226	4,294
September	290	94	128	46,891	9,781
October	306	39	13	43,743	12,235
November	154	71	31	29,138	6,224
December	215	36	16	34,335	9,134
1903.					
February	279	39	25	39,749	12,945
March	399	108	29	56,467	12,204
April	192	25	51	30,914	7,534
May	208	51	47	31,220	9,162
June	293	70	66	55,602	12,133
Total	2,576	548	436	409,380	100,595

Imports from Havana in 1903.—The following table, furnished by the Department of Finance and Public Credit of Venezuela, shows the imports through the ports of the Republic from Habana, Cuba, during the fiscal year 1902-3:

Month.	Vessels.	Number of packages.	Cigars and cigarettes.	Cigarette fillings.	Total weight.	Value.
1902.			Kilos.	Kilos.	Kilos.	
July	1					
August	1	8	1	2	96	a \$418
September	1					
October	1	1		1	68	73
November	1	2	1	1	123	228
December	1	3		3	98	124
1903.						
January	1					
February	1					
March	2	1	1		60	24
April	1	5	1	4	830	863
May	2					
June	2	7	2	5	169	353
Total	15	22	6	16	1,144	2,080

a U. S. currency.

Imports from Santander in 1903.—The following table, furnished by the Department of Finance and Public Credit of Venezuela, shows the

imports through the ports of the Republic from Santander (Spain) during the fiscal year 1902-3:

Month.	Vessels.	Number of packages.	Sausages and packages.	Mustard in jars.	Pickles.	Red wine.	White wine.
1902.			<i>Kilos.</i>	<i>Kilos.</i>	<i>Kilos.</i>	<i>Kilos.</i>	<i>Kilos.</i>
July	1						
August	1	8	1	1	2	1	2
September	1						
October	1						
November	1						
December	1						
1903.							
February	1						
March	1						
April	1	100					
May	1	125					
June	1	121				20	
Total	11	354	1	1	2	21	2

Month.	Capsules for bottles.	Sardines in tomatoes.	Sardines in oil.	Salted sardines.	Fish.	Total weight.	Value.
1902.	<i>Kilos.</i>	<i>Kilos.</i>	<i>Kilos.</i>	<i>Kilos.</i>	<i>Kilos.</i>	<i>Kilos.</i>	
July							
August	1					941	\$60
September							
October							
November							
December							
1903.							
February							
March							
April		100				4,400	735
May				125		2,625	133
June			100		1	7,564	496
Total	1	100	100	125	1	15,520	1,424

Summary.—The foregoing six tables are recapitulated hereunder and show that the value of the imports from New York amount to half of the aggregate imports from the six ports taken into consideration:

Imports, 1903.

Port.	Packages.	Weight.	Value.
		<i>Kilos.</i>	
New York	437,745	26,688,609	\$3,234,424
Liverpool	50,269	8,848,608	1,499,814
Hamburg	199,680	7,252,686	1,277,476
Bordeaux	5,697	409,380	100,595
Havana	22	1,144	2,080
Santander	354	15,520	1,424
Total	693,717	38,215,897	\$6,115,813

α Dollars.

The above table shows that the imports to Venezuela in 1903 from the six foreign ports taken into consideration amounted to \$6,115,813.

Imports from New York, 1902-3.—The consul-general of Venezuela at New York advises that the total shipments from the port of New York to the Republic of Venezuela during the year 1903 consisted of 434,967 packages of merchandise, weighing 26,175,854.49

kilograms, valued at 16,257,611.06 bolivars, as compared with 382,511 packages, weighing 21,272,826.51 kilograms, valued at 12,944.885.85 bolivars, shipped in 1902.

The following table shows the movement of this commerce by months:

Month.	1902.			1903.		
	Number of packages.	Weight.	Value.	Number of packages.	Weight.	Value.
		<i>Kilos.</i>	<i>Bolivars.</i>		<i>Kilos.</i>	<i>" Bolivars.</i>
January	35,593	2,020,591.85	1,006,321.06	32	38.69	4,915.00
February	37,160	1,822,715.97	1,108,770.96	39,876	2,700,236.75	1,058,454.10
March	49,706	2,581,753.53	2,216,318.25	25,761	1,458,343.40	1,338,530.45
April	46,481	2,389,538.98	1,614,099.00	25,867	1,526,158.20	1,380,989.46
May	29,357	1,681,011.53	967,718.90	39,884	2,150,853.22	1,650,050.15
June	31,570	1,666,851.55	811,732.45	28,568	2,202,889.50	1,205,807.50
July	16,240	1,061,047.09	594,199.30	34,818	2,074,785.80	1,530,616.45
August	23,111	1,460,682.70	1,278,969.96	45,630	2,353,945.62	1,777,253.50
September	20,239	1,812,207.66	864,020.25	36,630	2,181,658.75	1,107,998.05
October	20,968	1,538,207.30	800,942.90	64,267	3,942,158.15	1,806,668.20
November	41,488	2,235,825.15	1,205,848.10	49,161	2,823,667.46	1,835,474.25
December	24,598	1,302,398.20	665,974.85	46,083	2,784,134.05	1,562,464.95
Total	382,511	21,272,826.51	12,944,885.85	434,967	26,175,854.49	16,257,611.06

a 5 bolivars taken as equal to the U. S. dollar.

LA GUAIRA TRADE, 1903.

The following tables, furnished by the La Guaira Harbor Corporation Company, show the foreign imports by nationalities through the port of La Guaira in 1903:

La Guaira imports, 1903.

Month.	Germany.		United States.		Spain.		France.	
	<i>Pkgs.</i>	<i>Kilos.</i>	<i>Pkgs.</i>	<i>Kilos.</i>	<i>Pkgs.</i>	<i>Kilos.</i>	<i>Pkgs.</i>	<i>Kilos.</i>
January			15,619	1,002,436	2,766	94,492	817	47,024
February			15,711	1,938,851	4,571	149,369	1,120	74,683
March	31,710	1,317,650	19,589	1,211,370	5,040	167,123	1,020	97,523
April	6,602	272,726	12,790	842,083	2,381	87,269	956	64,198
May	6,525	312,071	15,586	925,188	4,013	130,767	815	55,321
June	12,803	517,067	19,639	1,798,446	3,769	151,571	1,182	83,132
July	14,898	778,006	27,865	1,650,577	5,442	193,145	1,670	108,955
August	12,814	680,950	20,900	1,324,452	6,148	216,741	1,500	105,889
September	14,661	728,705	27,408	1,694,808	6,095	230,489	1,977	119,127
October	17,915	790,289	37,952	2,315,531	5,267	169,186	4,019	175,991
November	24,255	1,254,624	34,870	2,998,918	4,083	144,266	3,087	165,066
December	15,168	766,513						
Total	156,851	7,318,600	247,424	17,702,660	49,575	1,734,418	18,113	1,096,909

Month.	Holland.		England.		Italy.		Belgium.	
	<i>Pkgs.</i>	<i>Kilos.</i>	<i>Pkgs.</i>	<i>Kilos.</i>	<i>Pkgs.</i>	<i>Kilos.</i>	<i>Pkgs.</i>	<i>Kilos.</i>
January			1,386	169,154	1,326	67,465		
February	1,896	113,121	1,728	1,911,792	811	19,524		2,597
March	2,176	84,257	1,227	186,704	922	56,595	11	30,036
April	1,258	67,722	1,654	1,660,578	1,158	61,223	157	43,556
May	3,583	215,284	3,441	293,198	404	22,755	812	22,071
June	4,963	284,781	3,157	788,792	990	57,234	116	
July	3,825	183,202	4,145	1,959,063	1,353	80,342		
August	2,786	169,120	6,794	679,866	1,839	73,029	200	36,000
September	3,110	216,551	5,282	1,158,044	1,037	66,895		
October	4,204	245,373	8,442	620,044	486	42,692	200	36,000
November	3,696	227,140	4,655	3,286,218	2,381	129,582		
December	3,072	245,538						
Total	33,967	2,052,089	41,821	12,708,453	11,707	677,276	1,496	170,080

La Guaira imports, 1903—Continued.

Month.	Colombia.		Denmark.		Cuba.		Portugal.		Austria.		Total.	
	Pkgs.	Kilos.	Pkgs.	Kilos.	Pkgs.	Kilos.	Pkgs.	Kilos.	Pkgs.	Kilos.	Pkgs.	Kilos.
1903.												
January.....											23,819	1,498,892
February.....											57,341	5,499,141
March.....			2	358	1	60					35,815	2,089,799
April.....											29,769	8,286,062
May.....											41,863	2,251,269
June.....	1	47			5	74					47,434	3,843,804
July.....			10	1,335	5	247	100	5,000	75	6,840	55,702	4,862,646
August.....									128	20,494	54,657	3,376,698
September.....					5	465					63,918	4,305,400
October.....	4	385							1	50	84,217	4,841,208
November.....									403	44,693	67,669	7,690,794
December.....												
Total	5	432	12	1,693	16	846	100	5,000	607	72,077	561,694	43,540,513

	Packages.	Kilos.
For La Guaira.....	525,120	41,488,813
In transit for Ciudad Bolivar.....	36,574	2,051,700
Total.....	561,694	43,540,513

La Guaira imports, exports, and coasting trade, 1903.—The following table furnished by the La Guaira Harbor Corporation Company shows the foreign imports and exports and the coasting trade of La Guaira, by articles, during 1903:

Month.	Vessels.			Goods.		Hardware and dry goods.	
	With general cargo.	With coal.	With lumber.	Pack-ages.	Kilos.	Pack-ages.	Kilos.
1903.							
January.....	7			2,980	297,491	349	12,392
February.....	17	5		17,068	777,572	1,396	62,402
March.....	17			8,443	584,171	1,136	49,622
April.....	19	1		8,296	642,288	1,556	67,811
May.....	18			12,887	872,873	3,297	99,419
June.....	19	2		18,549	754,740	3,156	124,899
July.....	22	1		17,753	1,155,019	4,409	145,579
August.....	19			15,771	1,130,969	6,546	266,161
September.....	23			14,578	1,175,068	7,416	286,787
October.....	21			23,835	1,480,284	8,522	320,020
November.....	21	5		19,664	1,145,606	5,820	226,789
December.....							
Total	203	14		154,764	10,017,081	43,601	1,611,881

Month.	Provisions and liquors.		Oils.		Kerosene.		Lumber.	
	Pack-ages.	Kilos.	Pack-ages.	Kilos.	Pack-ages.	Kilos.	Pack-ages.	Kilos.
1903.								
January.....	16,090	1,009,901	1,227	55,332	3,131	112,004		
February.....	30,459	1,872,806	1,306	118,185	5,840	205,975	313	8,999
March.....	20,226	1,164,436	913	59,280	4,706	167,529	200	7,207
April.....	14,879	810,464	917	54,220	3,250	114,206	200	82,604
May.....	19,896	1,003,876	627	34,180	4,196	151,328		
June.....	21,148	1,175,699	2,960	133,151	4,409	155,212	86	31,746
July.....	24,247	1,812,145	1,438	67,977	5,995	213,357	150	66,589
August.....	21,695	1,184,572	3,336	149,575	8,901	138,205	502	64,191
September.....	28,924	1,875,227	3,059	142,844	5,965	211,840	1,409	108,495
October.....	38,781	1,913,600	452	32,251	7,928	278,096	700	123,515
November.....	29,484	1,538,325	1,946	89,361	7,710	275,360	477	70,236
December.....								
Total	265,779	13,855,543	18,183	936,316	57,029	2,022,610	4,037	563,582

Month.	Cement.		Coal.	Machines.		Railway material.		Total.	
	Pack-ages.	Kilos.	Kilos.	Pack-ages.	Kilos.	Pack-ages.	Kilos.	Pack-ages.	Kilos.
1903.									
January				3	346	39	6,226	23,819	1,493,692
February				65	16,730	67	13,566	57,341	5,499,141
March	805	138,340	2,790,111	65	33,168	2	2,586	85,815	2,089,799
April	125	21,850		186	4,143	60	10,736	29,759	3,286,062
May	415	69,600	1,430,000	10	1,130			41,363	2,251,269
June	500	88,465		19	24,857	281	51,515	47,434	3,843,804
July	1,826	306,464	1,086,021	18	3,905	42	5,572	55,702	4,862,646
August	1,655	285,840	1,605,713	28	3,833			54,657	3,376,698
September	2,878	434,829	4,363	10	10,476	8	4,915	63,918	4,305,400
October	2,550	422,298	618,000	48	6,339	15	6,207	84,217	4,841,208
November	3,938	670,880	10,016	16	6,945	3	712	67,669	7,690,794
December	2,599	440,000	3,902,453						
Total	17,291	2,873,566	11,446,677	493	111,372	517	101,985	561,694	43,540,513

Foreign imports.

	Packages.	Kilos.
For La Guaira	525,120	41,488,813
In transit for Ciudad Bolivar	36,564	2,061,700
Total	561,694	43,540,513

Foreign exports.

Products.	Packages.	Kilos.
Bags of coffee	152,625	9,069,959
Bags of cacao	114,947	6,318,227
Hides	152,881	1,491,844
Sundry	16,339	892,256
Total	436,802	17,762,286

	Packages.	Kilos.
For La Guaira	361,144	16,632,414
In transit from Ciudad Bolivar	76,658	1,129,872
Total	436,802	17,762,286

Coasting trade.

Imports.		Exports.	
	Kilos.		Kilos.
Goods	13,127,279	Goods	6,278,588
Goods from Ciudad Bolivar	1,407,087	Goods in transit for Ciudad Bolivar	1,628,932
Wood (rough)	745,025	Goods from Ciudad Bolivar	849,248
Coal	2,500		
Total	15,281,841	Total	8,756,768

Exports in 1902-3.—The following tables show the number of packages, weight, and values of goods exported through the seven custom-houses of Venezuela during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1903:

Exports of Venezuela during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1903.

[United States of Venezuela, Department of Fomento, Bureau of Statistics.]

LA GUAIRA.

Country.	July to December, 1902.			January to June, 1903.			Total, 1902 to 1903.		
	Packages.	Weight. Kilos.	Values. Bolivars.	Packages.	Weight. Kilos.	Values. Bolivars.	Packages.	Weight. Kilos.	Values.
Germany.....	3,752	206,906.750	182,829.60	21,282	1,264,025.300	1,092,273.55	24,984	1,470,932.050	1,275,103.15
Austria-Hungary.....	616	36,777	22,084.00	2,695	156,406.600	122,865.20	3,311	193,182.600	144,449.20
Belgium.....	40	2,360	1,652.00	.....	.....	.....	40	2,360	1,652.00
Spain.....	4,501	271,448	359,421.77	12,188	771,086.500	791,969.79	16,689	1,042,634.500	1,151,411.66
United States.....	46,786	565,869.860	583,169.60	105,166	3,641,198.270	3,546,968.35	151,962	4,207,068.180	4,482,162.85
France.....	23,563	1,248,154.990	1,649,947.35	99,498	5,167,048.781	5,289,568.05	123,061	6,415,208.721	6,899,540.40
Netherlands and colonies.....	1,881	110,276	72,712.00	6,970	410,844	343,266.00	8,801	520,620	416,008.00
Great Britain.....	1,881	18,219.250	62,167.00	1,408	88,917.700	232,849.80	1,739	102,186.950	294,516.80
Italy.....	395	19,899.860	26,997.00	1,487	85,807.700	69,125.65	1,862	105,177.060	96,122.65
Miscellaneous ports.....	.....	.....	.....	136	7,956	8,725.00	136	7,956	8,725.00
Total.....	81,815	2,479,881.210	3,310,980.82	250,780	11,587,289.801	11,486,711.29	332,595	14,067,121.011	14,809,691.61

PUERTO CABELLO.									
Country.	July to December, 1902.			January to June, 1903.			Total, 1902 to 1903.		
	Packages.	Weight. Kilos.	Values. Bolivars.	Packages.	Weight. Kilos.	Values. Bolivars.	Packages.	Weight. Kilos.	Values.
Germany.....	16,469	316,181.500	184,643.00	42,253	650,669	375,501.00	58,722	966,850.500	560,144.00
Austria-Hungary.....	478	26,609	18,500.00	.....	.....	.....	478	26,609	18,500.00
Spain.....	2,689	192,597	146,150.00	4,769	1,676,971	999,320.00	7,458	1,869,568.00	1,989,820.00
United States.....	15,798	224,569	328,271.00	3,846	219,337	158,240.00	6,015	443,906.00	487,060.00
France.....	7,080	374,202	465,908.00	46,114	881,446	1,036,644.00	62,907	1,155,006	1,333,886.00
Netherlands and colonies.....	94,183	268,777	114,047.00	62,146	3,689,391	2,516,194.00	69,196	4,068,596	2,864,898.00
Great Britain.....	40	4,775	3,800.00	5	311,980	109,816.36	5	580,757	228,888.86
Italy.....	246	8,309	4,026.00	121,871	44,628	34,447.00	122,317	49,408	37,746.00
Sweden and Norway.....	.....	.....	.....	1,433	86,012	13,627.00	2,025	94,821	17,658.00
Total.....	187,978	1,416,009.500	1,264,840.00	412	24,560	20,313.00	412	24,560	20,313.00
Total.....	187,978	1,416,009.500	1,264,840.00	284,128	7,635,274	4,685,167.36	422,106	9,051,283.500	5,900,007.36

65 bolivars taken as equal to the U. S. dollar.

Exports of Venezuela during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1908—(Continued).

MARACAIBO.

Country.	July to December, 1907.			January to June, 1908.			Total, 1907 to 1908.		
	Packages.	Weight. Kilos.	Value. Bolivars.	Packages.	Weight. Kilos.	Value. Bolivars.	Packages.	Weight. Kilos.	Value. Bolivars.
Germany.....	180	731,335	73,082.00	210	1,296,901	104,062.00	400	2,018,436	227,734.00
United States.....	128,632	7,470,814	8,404,150.00	183,324	10,330,793	8,706,012.00	277,956	17,807,020	7,343,182.00
France.....	7,618	362,156	13,212.00	1,337	617,694	16,510.00	12,955	1,019,827	36,781.00
Netherlands and colonies.....	135,180	9,150,159	8,202,781.40	140,369	10,239,497	8,706,186.00	282,519	19,429,656	7,061,977.00
Great Britain.....				2,802	478,600	27,282.00	2,802	478,600	27,282.00
Total.....	284,590	17,900,067	6,863,106.00	311,352	22,881,252	7,715,608.00	576,941	40,781,909	14,578,806.00

CARUPANO.

Germany.....	601	42,207	39,904.00	570	31,301	27,728.00	1,201	73,508	67,632.00
Spain.....	1,254	72,540	96,206.00	3,009	217,067	264,072.00	4,262	200,107	260,000.00
United States.....	611	357,786	31,941.00	1,202	78,614	100,016.00	1,813	106,184	182,147.00
France.....	15,146	697,646,550	1,105,512.52	14,617	877,713,960	1,086,912.00	20,763	1,776,060,580	2,261,424.52
Netherlands and colonies.....				35	2,100	230.00	35	2,100	220.00
Great Britain.....	302	21,046,220	47,060.00	274	24,622	21,280.00	686	45,070,820	68,840.00
Italy.....				200	11,200	12,000.00	200	11,200	12,000.00
Total.....	18,061	1,391,287,870	1,890,708.52	20,466	1,348,643,600	1,548,196.00	38,650	2,084,780,470	2,928,908.52

LA VELA.

Germany.....	2,207	97,012	8,198.00	5,129	309,408	22,414.00	7,336	408,420	31,002.00
United States.....	2,612	146,904	842,515.00	7,144	847,171	678,992.00	9,756	492,976	921,508.00
Netherlands and colonies.....	11,923	311,594	162,828.80	2,882	108,800	89,267.00	14,185	535,384	192,088.80
Total.....	16,182	555,400	508,580.80	15,105	960,379	641,078.00	31,267	1,404,779	1,144,008.80

a Five bolivars taken as equal to the U. S. dollar.

PUERTO SUCRE.

Germany.....	13,065	1,490.00	.....	.....	.....	1,102	13,065	1,490.00
United States.....	28,060	22,496.00	515	.....	4,750.00	2,454	28,718	27,309.00
France.....	10,024	81,000.00	620	82,578.500	81,768.00	828	42,498.500	162,768.00
Netherlands.....	34,960	2,800.00	.....	27,000	2,000.00	4	61,960	62,900.00
Great Britain.....	7,500	4,210.00	1,963	106,680	71,000.00	2,131	116,180	76,210.00
Total.....	93,569	111,949.00	3,128	173,747.500	159,513.00	6,497	267,316.500	271,462.00

GUANTA.

United States.....	3,155	28,791	23,083.40	3,155	28,791	23,083.40
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RECAPITULATION.

Custom-house.	July to December, 1902.			January to June, 1903.			Total, 1902 to 1903.		
	Packages.	Weight.	Values.	Packages.	Weight.	Values.	Packages.	Weight.	Values.
La Guaira.....	81,815	2,479,881.210	3,310,960.32	250,780	11,587,239.801	11,496,711.29	382,596	14,067,121.011	14,896,691.61
Puerto Cabello.....	137,978	1,416,009.500	1,264,640.00	284,128	7,635,274	4,638,167.36	422,106	9,051,283.500	5,900,007.86
Maracaibo.....	264,599	17,900,687	6,863,188.90	311,352	22,858,252	7,715,698.00	575,951	40,753,939	14,578,856.90
Carupano.....	18,064	1,891,237.870	1,390,708.62	20,496	1,243,542.600	1,548,196.00	38,560	2,634,780.470	2,923,908.62
Puerto Sucre.....	3,369	93,569	111,949.00	3,128	173,747.500	159,513.00	6,497	267,316.500	271,462.00
La Vela.....	16,182	654,400	503,680.80	15,105	850,879	641,073.00	31,287	1,404,779	1,144,608.80
Guanta.....	.....	.....	.....	3,155	28,791	23,083.40	3,155	28,791	23,083.40
Total.....	622,007	23,885,784.580	13,435,197.54	888,134	44,372,225.901	26,216,381.06	1,410,141	68,208,010.481	639,651,578.59

a5 bolivars taken as equal to the U. S. dollar.

b \$7,390,315.71.

Résumé of values of exports by nationalities in 1903.

	a Bolivars.
United States	14, 163, 147. 75
France	12, 366, 507. 92
Holland	7, 888, 962. 56
Germany	2, 163, 095. 15
Spain	1, 847, 061. 56
England	503, 043. 80
Cuba	399, 325. 00
Austria	162, 949. 20
Italy	126, 655. 65
Sweden and Norway	20, 313. 00
Other ports	8, 725. 00
Belgium	1, 652. 00
Haiti	50. 00
Total	39, 651, 578. 59

Résumé of values of exports by ports in 1903.

	a Bolivars.
La Guaira	14, 809, 691. 61
Puerto Cabello	5, 900, 007. 36
Maracaibo	14, 578, 856. 90
Carúpano	2, 923, 903. 52
Puerto Sucre	271, 462. 00
La Vela	1, 144, 603. 80
Guanta	23, 053. 40
Total	39, 651, 578. 59

The foregoing statistics show that the largest exports went to the United States of America, the other countries coming in the following order according to the amount of exports, namely, France, Netherlands and colonies, Germany, Spain, Great Britain and colonies, Cuba, Austria-Hungary, Italy, Sweden and Norway, other ports, Belgium, and Haiti.

The value of exports to the six principal countries, compared with the aggregate total, is as follows:

	Per cent.
United States	35
France	34
Netherlands	19
Germany	5
Spain	4. 5
Great Britain	1. 2

The comparison of values of the first and second half year shows that the latter had a larger export than the first. The increase of value of exports to each of the six principal countries during the second half of the fiscal year 1902-3, compared with the first half, is the following: To Germany, more than 350 per cent; to Great Britain, more than 350 per cent; to Spain, more than 250 per cent; to France, more than 200 per cent; to the United States, more than 200 per cent; to the Netherlands, more than 130 per cent..

The exports to Cuba represented 1 per cent of the aggregate exports.

The custom-house through which the largest amount was exported was that of La Guaira, the others coming in the following order: Maracaibo, Puerto Cabello, Carúpano, La Vela, Puerto Sucre, and Guanta.

The value of goods exported through the four first custom-houses amounts to 96 per cent of the total, viz:

	Per cent.
La Guaira.....	37.5
Maracaibo.....	36.5
Puerto Cabello.....	15
Carúpano.....	7
Total.....	96

The increase in the value of exports through each custom-house during the second half of the fiscal year 1902-3, compared with the first half, is as follows:

	Per cent.
Puerto Cabello.....	367
La Guaira.....	347
Maracaibo.....	112

UNITED STATES CONSUL'S REPORT, 1903.

The United States consul at La Guaira, under date of February 5, 1904, reported on the trade conditions of La Guaira during 1903. The following is an abstract of said report:

In considering the commerce of this port and of Venezuela in general, it must be remembered that all imports now pay an additional duty of 30 per cent, which was added to the tariff about ten months ago.

The only statistics published showing the trade of La Guaira, the principal port of the Republic, are those prepared by the Harbor Corporation (Limited), and these only give the quantities. I am, therefore, compelled to make the most of these in order to show the comparative trade of the several countries through La Guaira and trust that my efforts will enable our importers and exporters to arrive at a fair estimate of their standing therein.

Imports.—The following statement shows the imports, by quantities, at La Guaira from the several countries during the year 1903:

Country.	Pack- ages.	Quantity.
	<i>Number.</i>	<i>Met. tons.</i>
United States.....	247,424	17,705
England.....	41,821	12,709
Germany.....	155,851	7,519
Holland.....	85,957	2,052
Spain.....	49,575	1,784
France.....	18,113	1,097
Italy.....	11,707	677
Belgium.....	1,486	170
Austria.....	607	72
Portugal.....	100	5
Denmark.....	12	1.7
Cuba.....	16	.8
Colombia.....	5	.4
Total.....	551,694	43,540.9

The foregoing shows that the United States is far ahead of all other countries in the imports into both La Guaira and the whole of Venezuela, and this fact is still more accentuated when we consider the class of merchandise imported and make certain deductions. According to this table England is second in the quantity imported, but when the nature of the imports is taken into account this position must be largely modified.

Coal was imported to the amount of 11,447 tons, of which England furnished 8,753 tons; the United States, 2,634 tons; and Germany, 60 tons. Thus, if we deduct this article from the imports of these respective countries, we find the standing of these three countries as follows: United States, 15,069 tons; England, 3,956 tons; and Germany, 7,258 tons. This item of coal being about the cheapest item of imports, I thought that by making this deduction it would show the relative value of imports as near as can be gathered here. The next items which might be eliminated in this calculation as being articles of great bulk and small value are timber (564 tons) and cement (2,874 tons). All the timber imported here during the past year came from the United States, and perhaps 25 per cent of the cement. Deducting these from the preceding totals leaves the imports from the leading countries as follows: From the United States, 14,350 tons; from Germany, 5,821 tons; from England, 3,956 tons; from Holland, 1,334 tons. These figures are given to show how far ahead of all other countries the United States is in her trade with this the chief port of Venezuela.

Total imports by articles at La Guaira in 1903.

Articles.	Packages.	Quantity.
	Number.	Metric tons.
Merchandise (dry goods)	154,764	10,017
Hardware	43,601	1,612
Provisions and liquors	265,779	18,856
Oils (other than kerosene)	18,183	906
Kerosene	57,029	2,023
Timber	4,087	563
Cement	17,291	2,873
Coal		1,447
Machinery	486	111
Railway materials	517	102
Total	561,694	43,540

Most prominent in the above table are the small imports in timber, machinery, and railway materials, showing that very little building is going on and that few industries are being opened or railways constructed. The coal that is imported from England is for the railways. The coal coming from the United States is used by the gas company of Caracas for the manufacture of gas.

Percentage of various imports.

Articles.	Percent.	Articles.	Percent.
Merchandise (dry goods)	23.01	Cement.....	6.6
Hardware	3.7	Coal	28.29
Provisions and liquors.....	31.82	Machinery.....	.25
Oil (other than kerosene)	2.15	Railway materials.....	.24
Kerosene	4.65	Total	100.00
Timber	1.29		

Exports from La Guaira.—The following statement shows the exports (articles and quantities) from La Guaira during the year 1903:

	Pounds.
Coffee (152,625 bags)	19,977,300
Cacao (114,947 bags)	13,927,076
Hides	3,296,234
Sundries.....	1,964,600
Total.....	39,165,210

Of the foregoing exports 2,483,800 pounds were in transit for Ciudad Bolivar.

The countries to which the exports were shipped are not given, but it may be stated that most, if not all, of the hides go to the United States. The coffee is divided between the different European countries and the United States. The cacao goes mostly to France and Spain.

Coasting trade.—The coasting trade, as well the import and export trade, has been affected by the change in the commerce of Ciudad Bolivar. This commerce, which formerly went through the British colony of Trinidad and was there transshipped for Ciudad Bolivar, now comes through La Guaira and adds considerably to the trade of this port.

Imports from New York, January to June, 1904.—The following table shows the value of articles exported from the port of New York to the ports of Venezuela from January to June, 1904:

January	\$433,405.35
February	326,922.59
March.....	317,537.46
April.....	293,461.51
May.....	193,339.16
June	242,974.38
Total.....	\$1,807,640.45

CUSTOMS LAWS.

FISCAL CODE.

The Fiscal Code in force establishes (Law IX, art. 4) that all national bureaux or officers which collect or disburse public moneys depend directly and only on the Finance (Treasury) Department.

^a U. S. currency.

Open ports.—The same code (Law XIV) establishes:

ARTICLE 1.—Are open for foreign import and export commerce, without any restriction, the ports of La Guaira, Puerto Cabello, Ciudad Bolivar, Maracaibo, and Carúpano, but the latter may only forward foreign goods coastwise for the eastern ports of the Republic, with the exception of Ciudad Bolivar.

ART. 2. The ports of Sucre, Juan Griego, Guíria, Caño Colorado, Guanta, La Vela, and Porlamar are open for the importation of only the articles for their consumption and for exportation.

Import commerce.—Law XVI establishes:

ARTICLE 1. Import commerce consists in legally introducing foreign merchandise for its consumption in the Republic.

Formalities in foreign ports.—According to the same code vessels of whatever description, arriving in Venezuelan ports, must be dispatched by the respective Venezuelan consular agent only for open ports of the Republic with the following documents:

Bills of health certified by the consul.

Manifests.—This document must include class, nationality, tonnage, and name of vessel and name of captain; the names of shippers of goods and consignees in the Venezuelan ports. The manifests must be signed by the captain and must include all the cargo according to the bills of lading in numerical order. Each package must bear a mark and number and must be classified according to cases, bales, barrels, hogsheads, trunks, kegs, crates, and other pieces in which the goods are sent. The packages for each Venezuelan port must be added together as well as the total cargo bound for all the ports of the Republic.

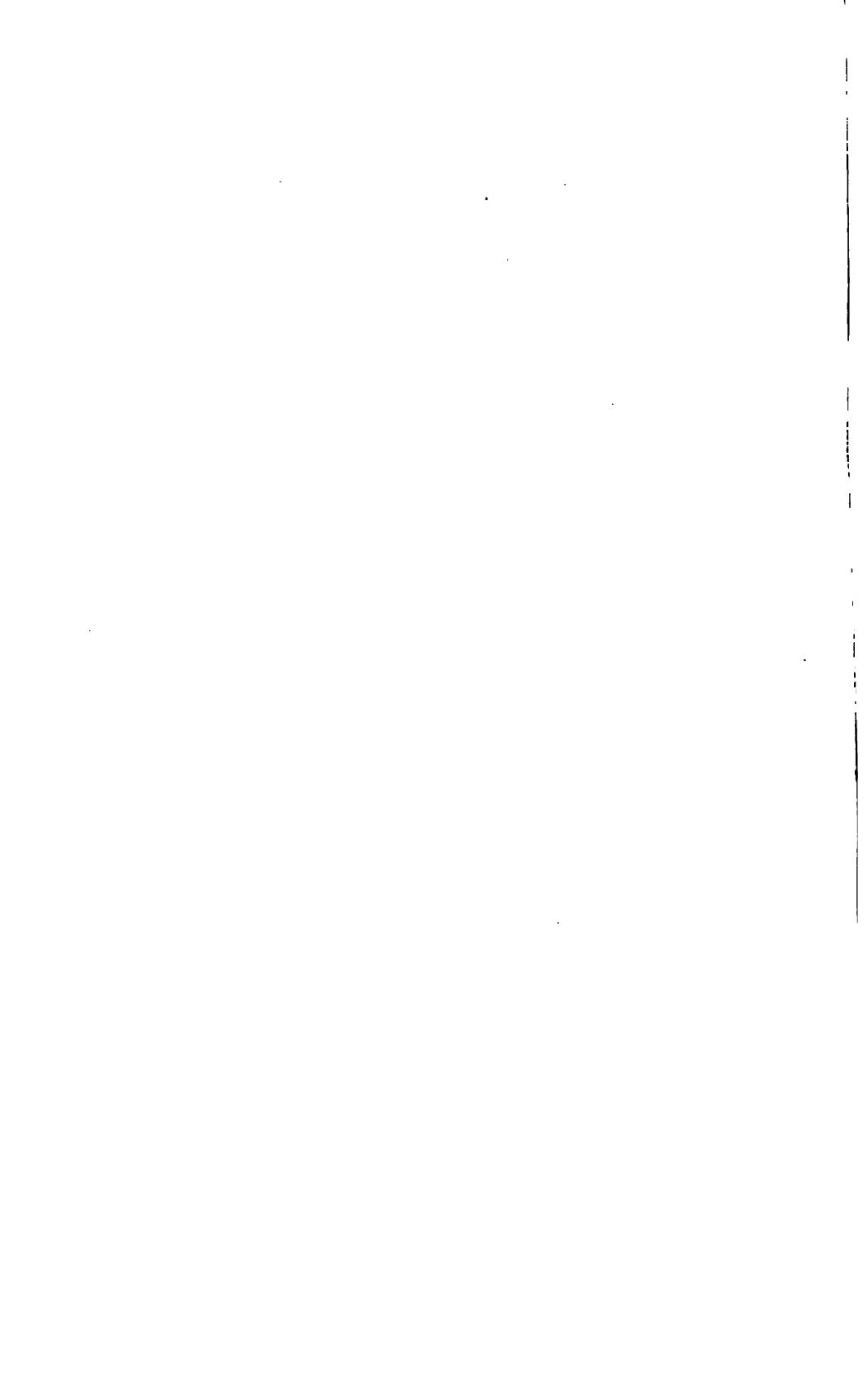
Bills of lading.—The captain of any vessel who has shipped in any foreign port goods bound for Venezuelan ports must also present in duplicate to the Venezuelan consul the bills of lading he has signed and issued to each shipper.

Consular invoices.—Three copies of each consular invoice made out in the Spanish language must be presented to the respective Venezuelan consul. The invoice must include the name of the shipper and that of the consignee, the port of shipment and that to which the goods are sent; the class, nationality, and name of ship and that of its captain; the mark, number, and class of each package; its contents, gross weight (precisely in kilograms), and its value.

Transshipments of goods.—In case of transshipments the captain of the vessel to which the goods have been transshipped shall present to the Venezuelan consul at the port of transshipment the sealed dispatches, remitted by the consul who signed them, to the collector of the respective custom-house to which the goods are bound. The captain shall likewise present the primitive manifest with a declaration in writing signed by him of having received them on board his ship, stating name, class, nationality, tonnage, and destination.



ENCONTRADOS, PORT ON CATATUMBO RIVER, ZULIA STATE.
(Courtesy of the Zulia Government.)



Certification of documents.—Bills of health, manifests, bills of lading, consular invoices, and transshipments must be presented at the respective consulate of Venezuela for certification by the Venezuelan consul.

Consular fees.—Venezuelan consuls charge consular fees for these services, as well as for all those comprised in the Venezuelan Consular Regulations, which establish the emoluments to be charged by Venezuelan consuls. (Consular Service Law, pages 19-24, June 3, 1899. Published in pamphlet form with appendix.)

TRANSIT COMMERCE WITH COLOMBIA.

Goods in transit.—The transit of foreign goods to the Republic of Colombia is allowed through the ports of Maracaibo, with destination for Cúcuta, and Ciudad Bolívar^a in transit to Orocué, subject to the formalities established for that purpose in the Venezuelan Fiscal Code. Goods, the importation of which is prohibited, are not allowed in transit. (Fiscal Code Law 23, Chapter I, arts. 1-26.)

Importation of Colombian goods.—National products and manufactures of Colombia, introduced by way of the frontier, can only be imported through the custom-house of San Antonio del Táchira. This Venezuelan custom-house, that of Maracaibo, and that of Ciudad Bolívar^a are the only ones authorized to import said Colombian products and manufactures, according to the provisions of the Fiscal Code. (Law 23, Chapter II, arts. 27-38.)

Exportations of Venezuela to Colombia.—For the exportation of Venezuelan products through the custom-house of San Antonio del Táchira there are special provisions in the Fiscal Code. (Law 23, Chapter III, arts. 39-41.)

REESTABLISHMENT OF TRAFFIC WITH COLOMBIA.

I, Cipriano Castro, Provisional President of the United States of Venezuela, decree:

ARTICLE 1. Traffic with Colombia is reestablished.

ART. 2. Foreign merchandise, goods, and products imported through the custom-house at Maracaibo, in transit for this Republic, and also those which may be exported from it, may be moved in steamships, lighters, and boats along the river Zulia, between El Guayabo and Puerto Villamizar, on simple compliance with the requirements of Law XXIII of the Code of Finance.

ART. 3. All prior Decrees and Resolutions on the subject are hereby repealed.

ART. 4. The Ministers of Interior Relations and of Finance and Public Credit are charged to see to the execution of this Decree.

Given, signed, sealed with the seal of the National Executive and

countersigned by the Ministers of Interior Relations and of Finance and Public Credit, at the Federal Palace at Caracas, on May 10, 1904, year 93 of the Independence and 46 of the Federation.

CRISTÓBAL COLÓN CUSTOM-HOUSE.

Cipriano Castro, constitutional President of the United States of Venezuela, in use of the power vested in him by the acts of Congress of May 6, 1902, and April 11, 1903, issued the following decree (abstract):

Whereas a port to be known by the name of Cristóbal Colón has been ordered to be constructed at the Bay of the same name, in the territorial jurisdiction of Amacuro, on the western coast of the Gulf of Paria, according to the plans submitted by the engineer, Dr. Manuel Cipriano Pérez, the said port is hereby declared to be a port of entry, authorized to do commerce of exportation, importation, and for the coastwise trade.

The imports through the port of Cristóbal Colón shall be limited to merchandise, fruits, and effects intended for its own consumption. Its coastwise trade shall be limited to the ports within its jurisdiction, and the articles which, as just stated, can be imported into it, and no others.

According to the provisions of article 1 of Law No. XV, of the Fiscal Code, a custom-house shall be established at the said port of Cristóbal Colón.

In use of the power granted me by article 10 of Law XXXV of the Fiscal Code, I do hereby mark the jurisdiction of the Cristóbal Colón custom-house as follows: From the promontory of Paria to the mouth of the Suarapiche. All the revenue ports established in this jurisdiction shall be subject to the new custom-house, but they shall continue to perform the duties assigned to them by the said Law XXXV.

As soon as the Cristóbal Colón custom-house is open to traffic which will be immediately after the termination of the work, the port of Ciudad Bolívar shall be again a port of entry, authorized for the commerce of importation and exportation and also the coastwise trade, with exactly the same powers and duties as it had until the 27th of May, 1903, when it was closed by order of the National Executive. Its jurisdiction shall be the same as before.

Pending the construction of the building when the custom-house shall be established at Cristóbal Colón, the Carúpano custom-house shall continue to exercise the same functions as are now intrusted to it.

TUCACAS CUSTOM-HOUSE.

On November 28, 1903, the following decree constituting Tucacas a custom-house port was promulgated (abstract):

Cipriano Castro, constitutional President of the United States of Venezuela,

In exercise of the powers conferred on me by the resolution of the National Congress dated the 6th of May, 1902, and the 11th of April, 1903, decree:

The port of Tucacas is constituted a customs port for foreign import and coast trade.

Sole paragraph. The foreign import trade shall be restricted to merchandise, fruits, and articles for its own consumption, and for the coast trade it shall only have power to conduct to the ports under its jurisdiction the merchandise, fruits, and articles which are imported from abroad.

In exercise of the faculty vested in me by article 10 of Law XXV of the Code of Finance, I confer on the custom-house of Tucacas the following jurisdiction: From the mouth of the Oroa to the Orinoco, and the coast guards established in this jurisdiction shall be subject to it.

REOPENING OF THE ORINOCO.

I, Cipriano Castro, Provisional President of the United States of Venezuela, decree:

ARTICLE 1. The custom-house of port Cristóbal Colón, created by Executive decree of December 7, 1903, shall begin to exercise its functions from June 1 next, and its jurisdiction shall extend from the promontory of Paria to the mouth of the Rio Grande.

ART. 2. In fulfillment of the provisions of article 4 of the said decree of December 7, 1903, the custom-house of Ciudad Bolívar is empowered to exercise the same functions and duties which it had before its suppression and with the same jurisdiction.

ART. 3. The custom-house of Tucacas, created by Executive decree of November 28, 1903, shall begin to exercise the functions for which it has been created from June 1 next, and its jurisdiction shall extend from Boca Aroa to Boca de Güegüe. The resolution of the department of finance and public credit dated November 28, 1903, is therefore repealed.

ART. 4. The custom-house of La Vela, temporarily closed by Executive decree of May 27, 1903, is empowered to carry on import, export, and coast trade, with the same faculties and duties which it had before its suppression.

Sole paragraph. The jurisdiction of this custom-house shall extend from the Boca de Güegüe to the Point of Oribono.

ART. 5. Let an account be rendered of this decree to the National Congress at its next assembly.

ART. 6. The minister of finance and public credit is charged to see to execution of this decree.

Given, signed, sealed with the seal of the National Executive and countersigned by the minister of finance and public credit at the Federal Palace, at Caracas, this 23d day of May, 1904.

TRANSSHIPMENT FROM THE WEST INDIES.

[United States of Venezuela—Department of finance and public credit—Direction of customs—Caracas, May 23, 1904—98 and 46.]

Resolved: The President of the Republic has resolved that after the lapse of the ultramarine periods appointed by Law XVI of the Code of Finance, counted from this date, Law XIX of the Code of Finance, the first article of which is as follows, shall be carried out in all its parts: "Fruits, merchandise, and effects coming from foreign colonies, which are imported through the ports of the Republic, which are duly qualified for importation, shall pay 30 per cent additional. Those which, coming from the ports of Europe or from the United States of North America for Venezuela, are transshipped in the said colonies to other ships which have to bring them, shall pay 30 per cent additional on the duties which are charged upon each manifest, according to the tariff now in force. This last provision shall commence to take effect when the National Executive may deem it expedient."

The administrators of the maritime custom-houses of the Republic shall strictly enforce said Law XIX of the Code of Finance. To be communicated and published. For the National Executive: J. C. DE CASTRO.

PORT OF MANOA.

The "Gaceta Oficial" of Venezuela, official organ of the Government, published at Caracas, in its edition of July 28, 1900, contains a decree making the port of Manoa, situated in the western part of the delta of the Orinoco, available only for the exportation of iron ore from the Imataca mines. The large steamships in which this mineral is exported, whether they arrive in ballast or loaded with machinery for the mine, which machinery according to law is exempt from duties, may end their voyage at Manoa without having to go to Ciudad Bolívar. This machinery may be received and dispatched by a customs officer appointed by the administrator of the custom-house at Ciudad Bolívar.

SANITARY LAW OF VENEZUELA.

José Tadeo Managas, President of the Republic, etc., considering—

1. That it is necessary to establish general and efficient rules to safeguard the inhabitants of the Republic from the contagion that may be brought by ships which enter her ports coming from infested ones; 2, that it is also necessary to establish the rules that are to be observed for the sanitary inspection of said vessels, and for the quarantine to which those coming from infested places, or who have not complied with the provisions that shall hereafter be established, must submit; and, 3, that the various rulings that have been made upon the

subject are contained in different orders, many of which refer only to special cases, and there having been other cases not covered by the same, decrees:

ARTICLE 1. In order for a vessel of any kind to be admitted to the ports of the Republic there must be presented to the chief civil authority, to the captain of the port or the person acting for him, and to the sanitary inspector at the time of making his visit, and which shall be described later on, a certificate issued by the proper authority in the port of clearance, which document shall be certified by the consul or consular agent of Venezuela, stating that there was no epidemic whatever on the date on which it was issued, which, at most, must not be later than the day before sailing.

ART. 2. In ports having no consul or consular agent of Venezuela the consul or consular agent of a friendly nation shall certify the bill of health, and in case there is no consul or consular agent of a friendly nation the bill of health shall be certified to by the sanitary inspector or by the person to whom the power of issuing bills of health is attributed. These requisites being complied with, the bill of health shall be considered clean.

ART. 3. When there are no consuls in the port whence the vessel clears, this fact must be stated in the bill of health, and unless this is done it shall not be considered a clean bill.

ART. 4. When a ship has to stop in other ports before reaching those of Venezuela it shall bring a clean bill of health from the port whence it cleared and from the port or ports where it may have stopped. Without these requisites it shall be subject to quarantine.

ART. 5. If in a port at which it stops the ship's bill of health should be taken up and not returned, it shall be sufficient to present a clean bill of health from the second port, stating that entrance was made into said port with a clean bill of health from the first port. Without these requisites it shall be subject to quarantine.

ART. 6. Ships whose period of navigation extends in excess of forty days before touching at a port on their routes shall present clean bills of health from the latter, stating in the same the fact of having presented bills of health more than forty days old. Without these requisites they shall be subject to quarantine.

ART. 7. Ships desirous of communicating with a port before entering the same shall remain outside of the port or harbor and shall dispatch from there a boat carrying a white flag, and said boat, until it has been inspected, shall anchor at a distance from the other ships. They shall bring in it their bill of health, and if in conformity with the foregoing requirements it shall be permitted to communicate with the port; but if the bill of health should not be presented, or should be found unclean, communication shall be refused and the ship shall not be permitted to enter without undergoing quarantine.

ART. 8. If a ship, subject to quarantine on account of some of the provisions already noted, should prove with authentic documents that neither in the port of clearance nor in that where it called there exists no epidemic whatever, and that because of the loss of the bill of health, or for any other sufficient reason, the same was not brought, then the quarantine may be raised.

ART. 9. When a ship anchors in the ports of the Republic, the captain of the port, or the person acting for him, together with the health officer, if there should be one, shall proceed within speaking distance of the ship and shall investigate as follows: (1) The origin of the ship; (2) the number of days at sea; (3) whether on leaving the port there was any epidemic in same; (4) whether it brings a bill of health; (5) whether there has been sickness or death during the passage. The foregoing questions being answered satisfactorily, they shall proceed alongside the ship and go on board in order to verify the correctness of the same and to examine the crew and passengers. If the bill of health is not clean, or if during the voyage any epidemic should have been declared aboard, and if any person has died or has become ill, the ship shall be isolated until the board of health reports on the case and determines whether the ship shall be subject to quarantine and for what time.

ART. 10. After the visit of the health officer in the manner prescribed, if it should be found that there had been no deaths or sickness and that the ship brings a clean bill of health, she shall be allowed to enter.

ART. 11. If the bill of health should state that the ship comes from a place where there is no epidemic whatever, or if deaths or sickness should have occurred during the voyage, or if it should not bring any bill of health, or if the same should lack some of the requisites provided for in this decree, it shall be subject to quarantine during the time designated by the board of health, bearing in mind the contagious nature of the disease, if such should be the case, or any other circumstances that may be noted, a decision being given as quickly as possible in order to prevent any damage to commerce.

ART. 12. The quarantine shall not last longer than forty days from the date on which any individual shall die on board attacked by a deadly contagious epidemic.

ART. 13. Quarantines shall be confined to the place designated by the board of health, to the leeward of the towns, and a mile distant from the coast.

ART. 14. The mayors, or in their absence the chief political authority of the respective ports, shall carefully see that the quarantine is stringent, to which end they shall establish observation boats that shall prevent all communication from the quarantined ship with other ships and with the land. The crew of the observation boat shall in no

case go on board the ship, nor shall the crew of the ship go on board the boat.

ART. 15. A ship placed in quarantine shall disembark its papers and correspondence by means of an observation boat in the following manner: It shall come close to the ship's side and to the windward of the same, and without touching the ship shall present to it a pole on the end of which there shall be a lead or copper box into which the ship's papers shall be placed. After the boat receives the mails they shall be duly fumigated thereon and sent to the post-office. The board of health shall designate the cases in which it shall be necessary to fumigate the mails.

ART. 16. If a ship under quarantine needs any aid it shall raise a white flag, which on being seen shall be approached by the observation boat, and after taking the precautions mentioned in the preceding article, shall receive the communication specifying the help asked for, and after fumigating the same, as already provided for, it shall be placed in the hands of the mayor so that he may take charge of and give the help asked for.

ART. 17. If during the quarantine any person should die the corpse shall be thrown into the water, observing the precautions which in such cases may be required.

ART. 18. It is the duty of the captain of the ship during the quarantine to shift the goods of his cargo so that they may be purified by the air, and to repeatedly fumigate his ship.

ART. 19. No ship is permitted to communicate in any way whatever with the port before the visit of the health officer takes place; consequently any person who lands before said visit is made shall be immediately reembarked by the mayor, imposing upon said person and upon the captain the punishment they deserve for the infraction of the sanitary laws.

ART. 20. All communication of ships with the territory of Venezuela, before the same shall have been inspected by the authorities and permission obtained for anchoring, is prohibited by this decree, as is also the landing of any person along the coast or in any places where there are no towns. Any person infringing this provision is subject to be reembarked by the local authorities, in addition to the penalties imposed on those who disobey the orders of the sanitary police.

ART. 21. Cases of imminent danger to the ship or of shipwreck are excepted from the penalties provided for in the two preceding articles.

ART. 22. The infraction of the articles of this decree shall be punished according to the laws now in force.

ART. 23. All previous laws regarding bills of health and sanitary inspection are hereby repealed.

ART. 24. The Secretary of Interior and Justice is charged with the execution of this decree.

Given, signed by my hand, sealed with the seal of the executive power, and countersigned by the Secretary of Interior and Justice, at Caracas, August 11, 1847, 18th year of the law and 37th of the independence. (Signed) JOSÉ T. MONAGAS. For His Excellency: TOMÁS J. SANAVRIA.

CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE OF VENEZUELA.

The following table shows the number of chambers of commerce existing in Venezuela and the dates on which they were established:

City.	Date.	City.	Date.
Caracas	Nov. 22, 1893	Cardpano.....	July 10, 1885
Maracaibo	May 29, 1894	Ciudad Bolívar.....	Feb. 5, 1899
Valencia.....	June 27, 1894	Barquisimeto.....	May 10, 1901
Puerto Cabello.....	July 10, 1894		

INSURANCE COMPANIES.

For more than fifty years there have existed in Venezuela, and especially in several ports, agencies of maritime, fire, and life insurance companies from foreign countries. At present, besides these foreign agencies, there are two national companies, namely, the Maracaibo Maritime Insurance Company, established in 1886, with a capital of \$100,000 and \$10,000 reserve fund, and the Venezuelan General Insurance Company of Caracas, established in 1893, with a capital of \$110,000. Since its establishment it has carried on maritime and fire insurance.

TARIFF LAW OF VENEZUELA.

[In force since July 1, 1902.]

The Congress of the United States of Venezuela decrees:

ARTICLE 1. Foreign merchandise imported through the custom-houses of the Republic shall be distributed into nine classes, as follows:

- Class No. 1, paying 5 céntimos of bolívar per kilogram.
- Class No. 2, paying 10 céntimos of bolívar per kilogram.
- Class No. 3, paying 25 céntimos of bolívar per kilogram.
- Class No. 4, paying 75 céntimos of bolívar per kilogram.
- Class No. 5, paying 1.25 bolívares per kilogram.
- Class No. 6, paying 2.50 bolívares per kilogram.
- Class No. 7, paying 5 bolívares per kilogram.
- Class No. 8, paying 10 bolívares per kilogram.
- Class No. 9, paying 20 bolívares per kilogram.

PARAGRAPH 1.—CLASS NO. 1, *paying 5 céntimos of bolívar per kilogram.*

1. Apparatus and machinery for generating steam by means of petroleum residues.

2. Apparatus and machinery for lighting with gas and electricity.

3. Hatching apparatus.

4. Fire engines.

5. Calcium carbide.

6. Hydrographic and navigation charts.

7. Carriages, accessories, and materials intended exclusively for railroads.

8. Wood ashes, residues of pressed grapes, guano, and every other substance, vegetable, mineral, or artificial, used as fertilizers and not included in any other class.

9. Roman cement.

10. Tileston roofing cement.

11. Springs, axletrees, rims, and boards for carts and carriages to be constructed in the country.

12. Geographical or astronomical globes, atlases, and printed or lithographed maps and topographical plans of all classes.

13. Rennet.

14. Eggs.

15. Native iron and scrap iron in pieces, both for smelting purposes.

16. Books printed, unbound or bound in paper, treating of science, arts, and trades, catalogues, newspapers, and writing samples for primary schools.

17. Wood prepared for shipbuilding, logs of pine, pitch pine for masts and square or round beams of pitch pine, oak, or other common wood not specified exceeding 25 centimeters intended to be sawn into planks, beams, or into any other form.

18. Machines and apparatus for electrical telegraph.

19. Steam motors of all kinds and all the appurtenances thereto.

20. Windmills and all the appurtenances thereto.

21. Unmanufactured gold and silver.

22. Unmanufactured platinum or white gold.

23. Living plants of all kinds; herbariums or collections of dry plants other than medicinal.

24. Bridges with their chains, floors, and other accessories when intended for public use or agricultural purposes; otherwise they pay duty on the materials of which they are composed.

25. Clocks for public use if not imported by order of the National Government.

26. Seeds, if not alimentary, for sowing purposes.

27. When empty, ordinary glass bottles are imported in boxes, to be afterwards used to carry the same number of bottles when filled,

the bottles and the boxes shall pay the respective duty to which they are liable under this law.

28. Articles in which goods exempt from duty or burdened with lower duties are imported, such as trunks, carpetbags, portmanteaus, or cloths which are not thereby deteriorated in value, shall be weighed apart and shall pay the duty of the class to which they respectively belong.

CLASS II.—*Duty 10 céntimos of a bolivar (1.93 cents) per kilogram.*

29. Sulphuric acid and liquefied carbolic-acid gas.

30. Bran, wheat, corn, linseed, oats, barley, and other cereals and cakes of the same for cattle fodder.

31. Fishhooks and iron wire, galvanized or otherwise, not wrought.

32. Almagra, ocher, chalk, Spanish white, clay, *caput mortum*, and all earths for building purposes not specified.

33. Mineral or vegetable tar, asphalt, raw petroleum, and bitumens of all kinds, except blacking.

34. Hoops of iron or wood for casks, barrels, and sieves.

35. Mineral waters.

36. Rice in the grain and oats.

37. Iron bars (as tools).

38. Common bottles of ordinary black or white glass for bottling liquors, aerated waters, and sterilized milk, and empty demijohns and square bottles of similar glass, generally used for importing gin.

39. Hydraulic pumps and their pipes, valves, and other accessories.

40. Boats and lighters, whole or in detached pieces, and the oars and sails for the same.

41. Tar, pitch or rosin.

42. Hydraulic lime, common lime, and all other similar materials for building purposes not elsewhere mentioned.

43. Parings and wastes of skins and dried sheep intestines, such as are used by sausage makers.

44. Hemp or tow, raw or twisted for calking; tarred tow and cotton wastes for cleaning machines.

45. Conduits or pipes of iron or lead, and the joints or connections for said pipes.

46. Cardboard in the paste and the filtering material used in breweries.

47. Waterproof cardboard for roofing and other purposes.

48. Carts and wagons.

49. Wheelbarrows and fire ladders.

50. Barley in the grain.

51. Rye and wheat in the grain.

52. Coaches, chaises, gigs, omnibuses, phaetons, and all kinds of vehicles not otherwise mentioned.

53. Bark of oak, yew, and other trees, used in tanning, and bone ashes.

54. Flour of barley, chick-pease, "Du Barry's Revalenta," and any flour not otherwise mentioned.

55. Ice imported into ports where ice factories established with permission of the Government are running.

56. Iron in bars, round or square, in plates or sheets, intended to make boilers or tanks.

57. Bricks for polishing knives.

58. Bricks, even if fireproof, slabs and tiles of baked clay, jasper wood, or any other material for pavements not exceeding 60 centimeters; tiles of clay or slate, and all kinds of common unwrought stone.

59. Firewood and charcoal in pieces.

60. Common wood, such as planks, beams, and joists of pitch pine, and other wood, not planed, tongued, or grooved, less than 25 centimeters in thickness and pine wood not specified, of whatever dimensions.

61. Maize in the grain.

62. Apples, grapes, pears, and all other fresh fruits.

63. Machinery, tanks of galvanized iron, and apparatus not specified in Class I, the total weight of which exceeds 1,000 kilograms, and ice boxes.

64. Music in sheets or book form.

65. Manioc.

66. Manila paper; and dried grass, not medicinal, such as hay and other similar, to be used as fodder for animals.

67. Pitch, common, white, black, or yellow.

68. Logwood, guaiacum, Brazil wood, mulberry wood, rose, sandalwood, and others similar, in shavings.

69. Slates for roofs.

70. Slates for billiard tables.

71. Slates with or without frames, slate books and pencils.

72. Pine resins and all other resins, not medicinal.

73. Wheels for carriages, carts, and wagons, iron axle boxes for the same, and steel wheels fitted on steel axles.

74. Epsom salts.

75. Glauber's salts and silicate of soda.

76. Sienna and black earths for cleaning purposes.

77. Tombstones or sepulchers, of marble, granite, or any other material.

78. Shingles.

79. Chalk, white, in sticks or powder, and marble and glass powder.

80. Gypsum in pieces or powder, and gypsum for casting.

CLASS III.—*Duty 25 céntimos of a bolivar (4.8 cents) per kilogram.*

81. Olive oil and its imitations, and cotton-seed oil.
82. Kerosene oil, colza oil, bone oil, and so-called "esperma de cristal" oil, for machines.
83. Stearic and oleic acids; stearin, pure, unworked, and stearin mixed with paraffin, known as trade stearin.
84. Acetic, hydrochloric, or muriatic acids; boric acid and borax.
85. Nitric acid or aqua fortis.
86. Aërated waters and lemonades.
87. Steel, bronze, brass, pewter, copper, tin, pure or alloyed, lead, nickel, and zinc, in ingots, bars, rods, or plates, whether perforated or not.
88. Orange-flower water.
89. Spirits of turpentine.
90. Knitting needles of steel, wood, bone, caoutchouc, or other similar material.
91. Cotton.
92. Spike lavender.
93. Alum in lumps.
94. English yellow or chromate of lead, minium litharge, mineral manganese, white lead and carbonate of lead, asbestine.
95. Stuffed animals.
96. Advertisements of medicinal or other industrial products, in the shape of almanacs.
97. Apparatus for filtering water; telephonic apparatus and adjuncts, as transmitters, plugs, ringing keys, carbons, and covered copper wire.
98. Harness and horse collars for use with all kinds of coaches, calashes, "quitrins," omnibuses, phaetons, and all kinds of cars, wagons, and carts.
99. Ground rice, sago, salep, tapioca, and crushed maize.
100. Brown sugar, and the burnt sugar used by brewers.
101. Sulphur, flowers or paste of.
102. Scales, Roman balances with their weights, except those of copper, or in which copper predominates.
103. "Barba de palo," and Spanish rush fiber.
104. Barrels, pipes, and hogsheds, put together or not, and staves imported separately.
105. Wimbles and augurs for perforating stones and trunks.
106. Pottery, glazed or not, in any form not otherwise mentioned.
107. Zinc, white and white bole.
108. Canes, reeds, rushes, palm, straw, not otherwise mentioned, and ozier, not worked, for the manufacture of brooms.
109. Sporting shots and bullets.

110. Cables, rigging and cordage.
111. Bowls for tobacco pipes and common clay and faience pipes not combined with any other material.
112. Cannon of all kinds.
113. Beans of all kinds, chick-pease, lentils, Spanish beans, and all kinds of pulse, garden produce, and alimentary roots, unprepared.
114. Cloth, unbleached and coarse cloth called "coleta," unbleached No. 3, common packing cloth, generally employed for cacao and coffee sacks and for packing, the color of which, naturally dark, has not been changed by a preparation intended to bleach them, even when with colored stripes and checks.
115. Charcoal in powder, boneblack, and lampblack.
116. Meat salted in brine, or smoked hams or shoulders not in tins, bacon and tongues, with the exception of jerked-meat "tasajo," the importation of which is prohibited.
117. Packing cloth lined with paper, fine pasteboard or thick office paper for visiting cards and other purposes, including waterproof paper for presses.
118. Chloride of lime and cyanide of potash.
119. Sieves of iron wire.
120. Hair grass and similar vegetable fibers.
121. Wax for shoemakers.
122. Beer and cider.
123. Creoline and all disinfectants, liquid or in powder.
124. Copper—old and scrap.
125. Portable kitchens of iron or other materials.
126. Hearses, including the lanterns, feathers, plumes, and all other accessories thereto, even when subject separately to higher duties, provided they be imported together with the hearses in the same or in another package.
127. Chalk—white or red, in lumps or in powder.
128. Crucibles of all kinds.
129. Pickles in vinegar, except olives and capers.
130. Juniper berries.
131. Emery in lumps or powder.
132. Esparto—raw.
133. Fuses and quick matches for mines and the lubricating tow for putting together machinery.
134. Copper scupper nails.
135. Fountains or basins of iron, marble, or any other material, and statues, busts, vases, and urns, of marble, alabaster, granite, or other similar stones.
136. Sago flour.
137. Biscuits of all kinds without any sugar.
138. Fluid gas and orozus.

139. Gum arabic.

140. Wheat flour and semoline prepared for making vermicelli, crushed wheat, and oatmeal.

141. Tools and instruments, such as hammers, sledge hammers, hatchets, capstans, forges, bellows of all kinds, cranes, "mollejones," large screws for blacksmiths, bickerns, anvils, and other similar tools and instruments.

142. Manufactures of iron: Wire and wire netting for mattresses; anchors and chains for vessels; safes; mortars; furniture; copying presses and machines for stamping paper; nails; tacks; hobnails; rivets and scupper nails; buildings not erected, or separate parts thereof, such as balconies, doors, balustrades, gratings, columns; roofs, even when imported separately; statues, urns, flowerpots, busts, and all other similar ornaments for houses or gardens; weights for scales; flatirons; posts for fences; stoves; boilers; "budares" kettles; broilers; pots; frying pans, and other household utensils, tinned or not, with the exception of similar articles of sheet iron and tin plate, which pay duty according to Class IV. Galvanized iron nails and washers are also included in this third class.

143. Tinned plate and sheets of tinned paper used for lining trunks.

144. Bones, horns, and hoofs not manufactured.

144. Cotton, Holland cloth, blue.

146. Toys of all kinds and of whatever material, including marbles.

147. Printed books, unbound or bound in paper, not comprised in Class I; pamphlets, copy books, and books intended for primary instruction, imported simply stitched or bound in cloth.

148. Sandpaper on paper or linen.

149. Linseed or linseed meal and colza seed.

150. Flax, raw.

151. Earthenware, common and faience, glazed or not, in articles of all forms, not mentioned in other classes.

152. Walnut wood.

153. Wood, fine, for musical instruments, cabinetwork, etc.

154. Wood in fine sheets for veneering.

155. Wood, sawn, planed, or dovetailed.

156. Lard and butter.

157. Machines, reservoirs of galvanized iron, and apparatus not otherwise mentioned and not exceeding 1,000 kilograms in weight. When machines are imported with extra pieces, which taken separately are subject to a higher duty, the whole will be dutiable as machines when such pieces arrive in the same package.

158. Mills of all kinds not specified in Class I.

159. Ore of iron, copper, and tin, black lead, and asbestos.

160. Potatoes of all classes and sizes.

161. Paper of all kinds, not otherwise mentioned, and serpentines

or paper ribbons; perforated paper, white or colored, used in carnival sports; white tissue paper in sheets 49 centimeters long by 36 wide, used to make press-copy books.

162. Fish, pressed, salted, or smoked, not in tins.

163. Lithographic stones; pumice stones; stones of all kinds, and forms for grinding or whetting; fireproof stones for blast furnaces; filtering and other similar stones.

164. Colors, common, prepared in oil.

165. Pianos, even silent.

166. Saltpeter, niter, and common calcined potash.

167. Leeches.

168. Sardines, pressed in oil with tomatoes or prepared in any other manner.

169. Tallow, prepared for the manufacture of stearin candles or stearin.

170. Soda, common or calcined.

171. Carbonate of soda, crystallized.

172. Sulphate of iron or green copperas.

173. Sulphate of copper or bluestone.

174. Iron-wire netting, not otherwise mentioned, and wire hooks.

175. Turpentine, common or of Venice, and paste or extract of logwood.

176. Poison, for preserving skins.

177. Glass plates not silvered, white or colored.

178. Vinegar, common and empyreumatic, and brandy from the residues of pressed grapes.

179. Wines of all kinds, in casks, pipes, or barrels, except when medicinal.

180. Coffee winnowers.

181. Sumac, powdered or not.

CLASS IV.—Duty 75 céntimos of a bolivar (14.46 cents) per kilogram.

182. Linseed oil.

183. Fish oil, other than cod, and cotton-seed oil, sésame oil, and almond oil.

184. Palm oil and painters' or sicative oil.

185. Olives, capers of all kinds.

186. Oil and vinegar cruets and castors, not having any part of gold or silver, which come under Class VIII, or those of German silver, of gilt or silvered, which are comprised in Class VI.

187. Steel, iron, copper, brass, tin, tin plate, bell metal, bronze, lead, pewter, zinc, and nickel, however manufactured, not otherwise mentioned, whether polished, varnished, stained, or bronzed or not, and furnaces for the manufacture of sugar.

188. Metallic wire manufactured in frames for wigs, bird cages, racks for clothes or hats, and other similar articles, also frames for parasols and umbrellas.

189. Almonds, hazelnuts, nuts, peanuts, chestnuts, and all other dried fruits with shells, not specified.

190. Stills and all similar apparatus.

191. Siegert's bitters.

192. Beneseed, canary seed, and millet.

193. Aniseed, canary seed, Ceylon and Chinese cinnamon, garlic, cumin, origan, pepper, and other kinds of spices, for seasoning.

194. Chandeliers, globes, shades, candelabra, candlesticks, beacons, street lamps, lamps, lanterns, hanging lamps, etc., except those ornamented with gold or silver which are included in Class VIII, and those of German silver or gilt or silvered which are taxed according to Class VI. Accessories thereof imported with the above-mentioned articles shall pay duty according to the class to which they belong.

195. Christmas trees.

196. Jet, not manufactured.

197. Sugar, white or refined.

198. Scales, Roman balances and copper weights, or in which copper predominates, including weights even of iron when imported together with the scales.

199. Wooden troughs or buckets, and tubs.

200. Billiard-table cushions, and bands or belts of coarse oilcloth for steam engines.

201. Bagatelle tables with all their accessories.

202. Felt for hats, not fulled, hair for hats, paper wrappers, leather hatbands, linings, plushes, peaks for capes and kepis, ribbon of silk or cotton when it comes in pieces of not more than 80 millimeters in width, and other articles used exclusively in the manufacture of hats, such as oilcloth prepared with gum-lac dissolved in alcohol, employed in the manufacture of black felt hats, and solutions of said gum in alcohol, and wool, or silk cord used in the same manufacture.

203. Shoe blacking and bituminous oil for blacking and softening harness.

204. Billiard tables with all their accessories, including the balls and cloth covers when imported together with the tables.

205. Armenian and lees of oil and lard and all other fatty substances.

206. Boxes of wood, even imported in pieces, *i. e.*, in boards for making same, and china water-closets, with their metal connections and other appurtenances.

207. Baskets, large or small, hand baskets, small carriages for children, and other articles of osier and wickerwork, including children's carriages, whatever may be the material from which made; cotton canvas

covered with paper, for the manufacture of envelopes, and tissue coated with sulphate of copper.

208. Pastebord manufactured or prepared for boxes, large and small, or in any other form, excepting for toys, masks, and playing cards. Blank visiting cards of any size are also included in this class.

209. Barley, husked or ground.

210. Sneezeroor.

211. Capsules for bottles.

212. Brushes, common, horse brushes, and those of horn or whalebone, for scrubbing.

213. Wax, vegetable, black or yellow, unprepared.

214. Bristles, and horsehair, and haircloth, used for keeping clothing in shape.

215. Wooden horses, or carousels.

216. Glue, common, in paste or liquid, and collodion for photographers.

217. Linen, unbleached, and cloth called "coleta," unbleached, No. 2, coarse cloth of the same name as that comprised in No. 119 of Class III, but which has been more or less bleached, and also "cotonia."

218. Pointed knives, common, with or without sheaths, knives with handles of wood or other common material, for fishermen, large steel knives, and machetes, and knives used in the arts and trades.

219. Varnishes of all kinds.

220. Caoutchouc made into tube or pipes, and in sheets or bands for machine belting, and in the shape of washers and rings, with linen inside.

221. Oilcloth for floors, packing, and roofing.

222. Mirrors of all kinds and plate glass silvered.

223. Spermaceti and paraffin.

224. Sea foam, a substance used in the manufacture of bread and baking powders.

225. Mats, large and small, and matting for floors.

226. Table mats.

227. Figures, ornaments, and articles of all kinds used in putting up confectionery, also gilt paper bags or cornucopias, finished or partly finished, imported for the above purpose. Should the receptacles referred to be covered with silk or velvet, or ornamented with flowers or other articles liable to higher duties, they shall, unless completely filled with sweetmeats, be placed under Class VI as fancy articles.

228. Door mats not otherwise mentioned.

229. Dried fruits.

230. Fruits in brandy, sirup, or in their juice.

231. Saddletrees.

232. Artificial flowers of porcelain.

233. Biscuits or crackers in the preparation of which sugar is employed.

234. Gasoline and benzine or naphtha.

235. Gelatin of all kinds.

236. Potato, maize, and rye flour.

237. Shoemakers' thread and hemp rope for halters with core of tow, and iron buckles, whether tin, nickel, or bronze plaited, for harnesses.

238. Coarse thread of hemp, and twisted lines or twine of the same material, for fishing.

239. Twine or cord.

240. Tin plate or sheet iron manufactured into articles not specified and iron utensils for domestic use when they have lids or covers of tin or brass.

241. Incense.

242. Tools used in the arts and trades, with or without handles, such as pinchers, gravers, compasses, gimlets, trowels, chisels of all kinds for carpenters, levels, gauges, jack planes, awls, files, hammers, saws, tongs and pinchers, lathes, and vises.

243. Colored chalk for tailors.

244. Sirups of all kinds other than medicinal, confectionery of all kinds, sugar candy, and flavored rice flour employed for sweets.

245. Sealing wax in cakes or sticks and well cement.

246. Raw wool and sailcloth of hemp or cotton, unbleached.

247. Condensed milk.

248. Books, printed and bound, except those mentioned in Class VIII.

249. Crockery, in imitation of porcelain.

250. Porcelain and china in any way not specified.

251. Hops.

252. Wood manufactured into articles not otherwise mentioned.

253. Manigraphs.

254. Furniture of iron and wood.

255. Marble, jasper, alabaster, granite, and other similar stones, wrought or polished in articles not otherwise mentioned.

256. Maizena.

257. Wicks and twists for lamps and chimney cleaners.

258. Mustard in the grain or in powder.

259. Furniture of common wood, osier, and straw or cane.

260. Organs and all kinds of parts thereof imported separately.

261. Ostein and oleomargarine.

262. Wood in strips for making matches.

263. Wooden colts covered with flax.

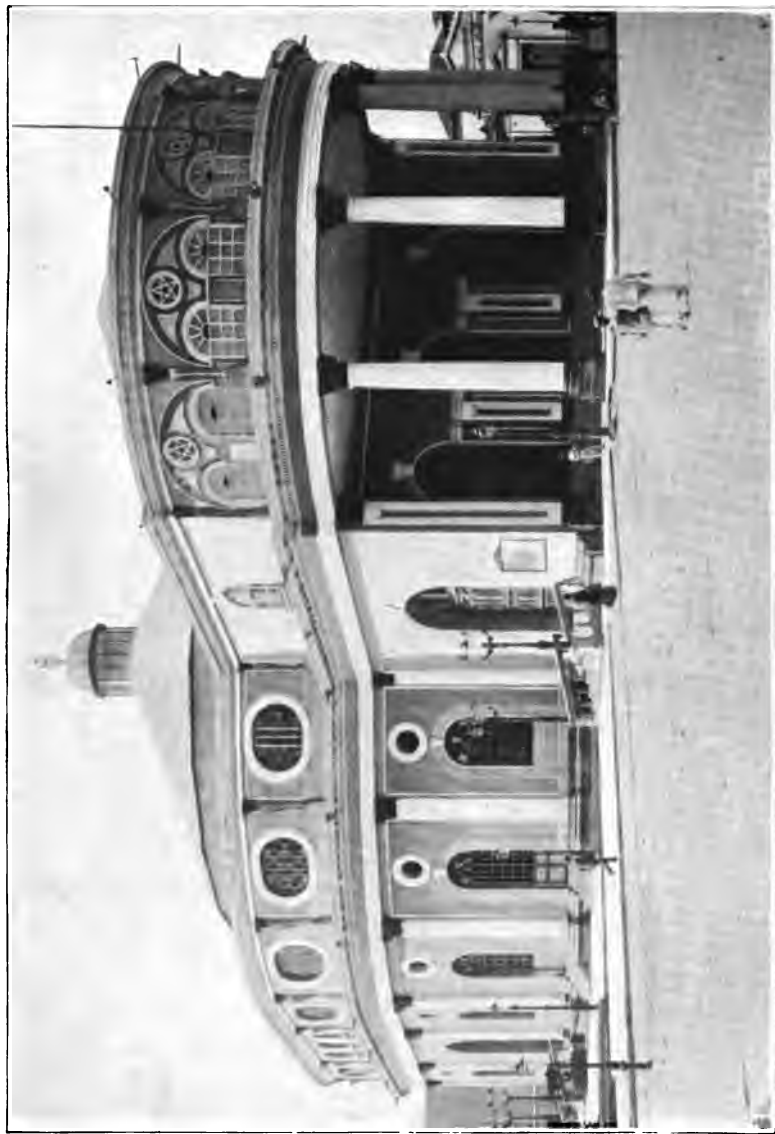
264. Paste or mastic for polishing and that used for the tips of billiard cues.

- 265. Wall paper, including black and albuminated paper.
- 266. Composition imitating porcelain, marble, granite, or any fine stone, in all kinds of articles, except toys for children.
- 267. Paper for cigarettes not otherwise mentioned, even when bearing on it, printed or lithographed, the name of the manufacturer, or of the manufacture, for whose use it was made.
- 268. Flints, touchstones, polishing and similar stones not included in the other classes.
- 269. Hides, neither tanned nor prepared.
- 270. Shovels made altogether of wood.
- 271. Solders.
- 272. Leather tips for billiard cues.
- 273. Cheese of all kinds.
- 274. Sacks—empty, of canvas, unbleached, and thick linen or other similar fabrics.
- 275. Sausages, hams in cans, fish in cans, alimentary preserves, mushrooms, dried or in sauce; lacteous flour and all other similar foods, prepared or not prepared, not included in the preceding classes, such as Buitoni's agglutinated paste.
- 276. Sauces of all kinds and pickles in mustard.
- 277. Tallow—raw, rendered or pressed, and ordinary fats of all kinds for making soap.
- 278. Siphons and machines for aerated waters.
- 279. Sole leather, dyed or not, unmanufactured, and hempen soles for sandals.
- 280. Piano stools of whatever material.
- 281. Talc in sheets or in powder.
- 282. Horsehair or bristles for fishing rods.
- 283. Meat covers of wire gauze.
- 284. Stoppers with heads of metal, glass, crystal, or porcelain.
- 285. Fabrics of cotton, hemp, esparto, or flax for floor coverings, even when mixed with a small quantity of wool, and haircloth for furniture.
- 286. Canvas prepared for oil paintings and stumps for drawing.
- 287. Cloth—common, of hemp, flax, or cotton, for furniture, in bands, or any other form, and cotton dishcloths for domestic use, and straw ribbon for packing.
- 288. Wooden heels, shod or not with copper or iron.
- 289. Strips of tinned stuff or paper for shoemakers of 1 centimeter in width and 12 centimeters in length.
- 290. Bootjacks and corkscrews.
- 291. Chalk in sticks, lumps, or other form for billiard rooms.
- 292. Shades and blinds for doors and windows.
- 293. Firecrackers, called "triquitraques," and the fuses for rockets.
- 294. Rubber tubes and hose and bands for machinery.

- 295. Sails of coarse twilled cloth for vessels.
- 296. Tallow candles.
- 297. Bicycles, or velicipedes.
- 298. Glass and crystal, manufactured, in any form not elsewhere mentioned.
- 299. Wines of whatever description, when imported in demijohns or bottles, excepting medicinal wines.
- 300. Articles of gypsum of all kinds, excepting toys.

CLASS V.—*Duty 1.25 bolivars (24.1 cents) per kilogram.*

- 301. Cod-liver oil, tartago oil, medicinal oils, and all other oils not specified.
- 302. Perfumed oils and soaps.
- 303. Arsenic.
- 304. Tartaric acid in powder.
- 305. Liquid ammonia.
- 306. Toilet waters and hair wash such as "florilina" and the like, and waters for cleaning metals.
- 307. Spirits of all kinds, brandy or cognac and its essences, absinth, gin and its essences up to 22° Cartier; above 22° they shall pay proportionally; bitters not otherwise specified, such as the elixir bitter of coca, are included in this class.
- 308. Peeled almonds.
- 309. Apparatus for measuring hats.
- 310. Photographic apparatus and implements used for making same, not included in other classes.
- 311. Shapes of gummed stuff for hats and caps.
- 312. Rings and buckles covered with leather.
- 313. Strops and fine stones for sharpening razors, and razor paste.
- 314. Saffron.
- 315. Quicksilver.
- 316. Trunks, traveling sacks, bags, valises, and portmanteaus of all kinds.
- 317. Skins for carrying wine and purses and small bags of oilcloth for grain samples.
- 318. Trusses, bandages, bougies or probes, supporters, lint, strainers or filters, sucking bottles and nipples, cupping glasses, anodyne necklaces, spatulas, lancets, retorts, clysters, syringes of all kinds, and siphons not otherwise mentioned.
- 319. "Bramante," "brin" ticks, drills, domestic cloth, "liencillo," "platilla," "warandol" or Irish linen, and all other unbleached similar cloths, even if they have colored lines or flowers, and Holland linen, black or blue.
- 320. Paint brushes of all kinds.
- 321. Hat cases of leather.



MUNICIPAL THEATER, CARACAS.
(Courtesy of the Venezuelan Government.)

- 322. Almanacs of all kinds.
- 323. Camera obscura or camera lucid, for drawing or photography, and other similar apparatus.
- 324. Cotton canvas for embroidering, and canvas of unbleached thread, similar to the light tissues used for mosquito nets.
- 325. Capsules, sacks or bags of paper, of all kinds and sizes, with or without inscriptions, for pharmaceutical purposes.
- 326. Tortoise shell, crude.
- 327. Homespun linen, white "coleta," "lienzo de rosa," camel's back, cotton cretonne, and linen unbleached German cretonne, Nos. 9, 10, and 11, striped or checked crehuela, colored or not, and all other similar cloth not mentioned in other classes.
- 328. Sieves of copper wire, of leather, wood, or horsehair.
- 329. Brushes for the teeth, hair, and clothes, and all others, except those included in the fourth class.
- 330. White wax, pure or mixed, not wrought, and mineral wax.
- 331. Bristles for shoemakers.
- 332. Fish glue and liquid glue for shoemakers.
- 333. Colors and paints not otherwise mentioned, such as bluing, ultramarine, and "kalsomine" earth of several colors, and paints prepared with oil to be used for enamel.
- 334. Cork in sheets, stoppers, and in any other shape.
- 335. Shoe strings, ordinary cotton braids for sandals, and all other linen or cotton shoe strings and cord, twisted or untwisted, provided that they consist of ten or more threads.
- 336. Amethyst quartz.
- 337. Cubebs.
- 338. Penknives, razors, scissors, and "jackknives," table knives and forks, except those which have gilt or silver handles, which belong to the VIII Class, and those gilt or silvered, which are included in Class VI.
- 339. Cords and "entorchados."
- 340. Beer, concentrated or pectonized.
- 341. Sassafras and all other medicinal barks.
- 342. Cotton drills, white or colored, and cotton flannel, white or colored; also cotton drill called "casinette," and cotton batiste and the fulled cloth used for towels, bath, or hand.
- 343. Drugs, medicines, and chemical products not otherwise mentioned; also all vermifuges or medicinal articles or substances, such as bicarbonate of soda, beef wine, Bisteri cinchona wine, cardamom seeds and plants, and all patent medicines, drugs, and chemical products not specified elsewhere, and dynamite.
- 344. Oilcloth of all kinds not otherwise mentioned, except those used for flooring, packing, or roofing, included in Class IV.
- 345. Cotton buckram.

346. Brooms, large and small, and horsehair brooms.
347. Essences and extracts of all kinds not otherwise mentioned.
348. Sponges.
349. Stereoscopes, cosmoramas, dioramas, panoramas, magic lanterns, phonographs, graphophones, and other similar apparatus.
350. Paper lanterns, paper collars, fronts, and cuffs, including those lined with cloth, and manufactured paper not otherwise mentioned.
351. Foils, masks, breastplates, and fencing gloves.
352. Matches of all kinds, not specified, and match stuff in paste.
353. Photographs.
354. Cotton blankets.
355. Woolen blankets, white or with colored fringes, and dark blankets of the material called "cabrin."
356. Gum lac, copal, and all kinds of gums and resins not otherwise mentioned.
357. Horsehair gloves, and fencing gloves.
358. Glycerin.
359. Ordinary sewing thread, untwisted thread for embroidering, and thread of one end for weaving.
360. Loadstone.
361. Images and statues other than those of gold or silver, and mechanical manikins of life size.
362. Musical instruments and boxes, and all accessories thereof, excepting organs and pianos.
363. Surgical, dental, anatomical, mathematical, and other scientific instruments not elsewhere mentioned.
364. Soap, white, marbled, called "Castille" or "Marseilles."
365. Soap, common, soap in powder, and rock salt for animals.
366. Sets of chessmen, draughts, dominos, roulette, and similar games, and playing cards of all sorts.
367. Pictures and engravings on paper.
368. Blank books, crayons and charcoal pencils for drawing, notebooks and portfolios, lithographed receipt and check books pencils of all kinds, except slate pencils, rubber erasers, seals and stamps for letters, writing ink and ink powder, paper cutters, pencil cases, sealing wax and wafers, sand, steel pens, penholders, inkstands, and all other stationery articles, with the exception of envelopes and articles containing gold and silver.
369. Books containing gold or silver leaf, whether real or imitation, for gilding or silvering; bronze in powder and books for bronzing.
370. Liquor stands, empty or with liquor.
371. "Liencillo," "brin," and domestic cloth, bleached or unbleached, linen or cotton.
372. Iron filings.
373. Striped cloth, "arabias," gingham of linen or cotton, common,

that is, such as have only thirteen strands in the warp or woof of each square of 5 millimeters.

374. Wooden battens, moldings, and cornices, painted, varnished, gilt or silvered, and wooden curtain loop holders.

375. Colored cotton duck, and linen, cotton, or woolen straps, from 7 to 15 centimeters wide, for saddle girths and upper girths.

376. Liqueurs, or cordials, such as cherry cordial, créams of vanilla, cocoa, and the like.

377. Madapolan, Hollands, Brittany, domestic, sheeting, Irish, white or colored, cretonne, "elefante," "platilla," "liencillo," Rouen, calico, "savage" of cotton, and other similar white cotton goods.

378. Picture frames of any material, with or without glasses, pictures, plates, or engravings.

379. Masks of all kinds.

380. Macaroni, "tallarines," vermicelli, and other similar soup pastes.

381. Tape measures of leather, linen, or paper, with or without cases.

382. Furniture of fine wood, such as rosewood, mahogany, and walnut, and that with backs and seats upholstered with horsehair, wool, cotton, or silk, furniture of common gilt wood, and coffins of all sorts.

383. Gallnuts, nutmegs, and mace.

384. Screens of paper, metal, or tissue.

385. Gum pastilles or drops.

386. Perfumery of all kinds, and perfumed books of "papier poudré."

387. Parchment and imitations of the same, in articles not otherwise mentioned, cloth only used for bookbinding, and waterproof cloth of caoutchouc and cotton used for blankets and winter overcoats, and cotton felt for lithographic machines.

388. Aerometers of all kinds and alcoholometers.

389. Paintings, chromos, drawings, and portraits on canvas, wood, paper, stone, or other materials; lithographed advertisements applied on cardboard, and cards with colored landscapes or figures, used in baptismal festivities.

390. Tissue paper and writing paper when bearing something printed, even if imported for private use.

391. Bottle and glass stands.

392. Gunpowder.

393. Tobacco, cut for cigarettes. This article shall pay the additional duty of 2 bolivars per kilo.

394. Tannin.

395. Tea and vanilla.

396. Indian ink, hair dyes, and all other inks not specified.

397. Candles of spermaceti, paraffin, composition, or stearin, and twisted wicks for the same.

398. Dowlas warandol, unbleached, of linen or cotton, even with colored stripes or flowers, also that with a lead-gray or light-yellow ground.

399. Tinder boxes and flints or wicks for tinder boxes.

CLASS VI.—*Duty 2.50 bolivars (48.2 cents) per kilogram.*

400. Bugles and beads of glass, porcelain, steel, wood, or of any other material excepting gold and silver; coffin ornaments; fancy articles of glass or porcelain mounted in gilt or silvered metal; artificial plants of caoutchouc, paper, or tissue, representing palms, begonias, and large leaves; and sweetmeat boxes covered with silk or velvet, or ornamented with flowers or other articles liable to higher duties than those levied under Class IV.

401. Steel hoops for crinolines or bustles, covered or not with tissue.

402. Damasks, drills, Brittany cloth, unbleached cloth, "bramante," ticks, dowlas, excepting unbleached German dowlas Nos. 9, 10, and 11, specified in Class V, "estopilla," "estrepe," "garantido," Irish linen, "florete," "platilla," Rouen, calico, white or dyed dowlas, warandol of linen, pure or mixed with cotton, and any other similar goods of linen or linen mixed with cotton.

403. Pins, needles, eyelets, hooks and eyes, clasps for clothes and shoes, zinc clasps for shoes, buckles for hats, waistcoats, trousers, and shoes, except those of gold or silver.

404. Carpets in the piece or rugs.

405. Undershirts, scarfs, bonnets, socks, drawers, trousers, stockings, and underwaists, of cotton, knitted, and like tissues. Undershirts with collars and cuffs, or fitted for same, shall pay 50 per cent additional.

406. Field glasses, spectacles, opera glasses, telescopes, eyeglasses, lenses, microscopes, except those of gold or silver, including glasses and lens, etc., imported separately.

407. Whalebone and its imitations.

408. Chamois and tanned skins, not manufactured, except the white or colored sole leather, which belongs to Class IV.

409. Barometers, hygrometers, chronometers, thermometers, sextants, octants, and other similar instruments, and compasses of all classes.

410. Canes, whips, and slung shots, with the exception of sword sticks or sticks containing a mechanism for firing, which are included in Class VII.

411. Buttons of all kinds, excepting those of silk, silver, or gold.

412. Baize and ratteens, in piece or plaids, and blankets made of these materials.

413. Bowls for pipes, cigar holders and pipes, of amber, porcelain,

and any other material, except those of gold or silver and those mentioned in Class III.

414. Shaving boxes with accessories, work and traveling cases.

415. Shells, loose, or made up into ornaments.

416. Pocketbooks, cigar and cigarette cases, cardcases, purses, tobacco pouches, spectacle cases, match boxes, albums, not covered with velvet, nor gilt, nor silvered, and all other similar articles, except those which have gold or silver.

417. Wax, manufactured into articles of all kinds, except toys.

418. Counterpanes, sheets, plaids, hammocks, table covers, of linen or cotton.

419. Elastic for shoes.

420. Coral in articles of all kinds, except when set in gold or silver.

421. Funeral wreaths and other funeral articles.

422. Thin cord, white, linen or cotton, twisted or untwisted, of less than ten threads, and also twisted linen in the shape of cord, such as binding or sail thread, which can not, on account of its elasticity, be assimilated to cord or be used in the manufacture of hand or machine made fabrics.

423. Crinolines, bustles, and similar articles, and caoutchouc dress shields covered or not, used inside of ladies' clothing.

424. Knives and forks with German or white metal, or silvered or gilt handles.

425. Mattresses, pillows, paillasses, and cushions, except those of silk; feathers for stuffing them, and woven-wire mattresses.

426. Cotton ropes for hammocks.

427. Damask, "coqui," bombazine, "bordon," padding, ticking, "mahon," nankeen, light nankeen, "estrepe," quilting sateen, "tangep," or stiff muslin, of cotton, white or colored, and other similar cotton tissues not mentioned in the other classes.

428. Thimbles, not of gold or silver, and artificial teeth and eyes.

429. Skirts, petticoats, dressing gowns, nightdresses, and dresses of cotton, made up or in patterns, and cotton goods in patterns for petticoats, with or without embroidered bands.

430. Articles of German or white metal or its imitations, such as trays, dishes, curbs, bits, muzzles, spurs, stirrups, hinges, buckles, chandeliers, lamps, candelabra, and other similar articles.

431. Articles of iron and other similar metals, gilt or silvered, with the exception of stationery, which shall always be included in Class V, even when gilt or silvered.

432. Yarns, worsted, raw, and of goats' hair.

433. Cases containing small articles of steel, copper, or other metals, for embroidering, cleaning the teeth and nails, and for drawings and paintings.

434. Brooms and brushes of palms, rushes, or other vegetable fibers.

435. Felt in pieces for saddle cloths.

436. Blankets or quilts of pure wool or wool mixed with cotton, and with ground of one or more colors, and counterpanes, of wool or wool mixed with cotton, also colored.

437. Goods for slippers, excepting of silk.

438. Elastic for shoes.

439. Gutta-percha, manufactured or not, and rubber shoes.

440. Imitation gold or silver thread, thin wire, spangles, tinsel, leaf, foil, galloons, trimmings, small wares, and other articles of imitation gold and silver, for embroidering or sewing.

441. Bone, ivory, mother-of-pearl, real and imitation jet, real and imitation tortoise shell, caoutchouc, india rubber, sheets of celluloid, horn and talc, manufactured in articles of all kinds not otherwise mentioned, with the exception of children's toys comprised in Class III, and those combined with gold and silver, which are included in Class VIII.

442. Table cloths, towels, and napkins of all classes.

443. Sheeting of pure linen or of linen mixed with cotton.

444. Clock and watch hands, keys, springs, spirals, and other parts of watch and clock movements, excepting those of gold and silver.

445. Wicks and cotton slightly spun for wicks.

446. Cotton handkerchiefs, when not more than one meter long.

447. Paper, gilt or silvered, paper stamped in relief, and colored paper for artificial flowers.

448. Umbrellas, sunshades, and parasols, of wool, linen, or cotton.

449. Imitation pearls and stones, not set, or set in any metal except gold or silver.

450. Rice and other toilet powder, such as Persian shell calcined. Powder puffs also belong to this class.

451. White metal or German silver, in articles of all kinds not specified.

452. Goose quills prepared as toothpicks.

453. Feather dusters.

454. Imitation jewelry.

455. Table or wall clocks, alarm clocks, water clocks, hourglasses, and all other clocks, except tower clocks imported by the Federal Government for public use, belonging to other classes.

456. Hats, caps, hat frames and bonnets, of straw, or its imitations, not trimmed.

457. Patent leather, not manufactured.

458. Chewing tobacco, in paste or twisted, and cigarette paper whether in bobbins or in the form of Egyptian cigars.

459. "Dowlas," warandol, white or of linen, or of linen mixed with cotton.

460. Chintz, nainsook, calicoes, cretonnes, carlancanes, paper cambrics, fine French striped cloth, and other fine tissues, which have more than thirteen threads in the woof in a square of 5 millimeters, poplins, "malvinas," Japanese cloth, lustrines, colored percales, and any other cotton cloths, colored, similar to the above, and not otherwise mentioned under different classes, such as cotton merinos and colored canton flannel.

CLASS VII.—*Duty 5 bolivars (96.5 cents) per kilogram.*

461. Fans of all kinds.

462. Opera cloaks, of wool, or wool mixed with cotton.

463. Undershirts, of wool, or wool mixed with cotton.

464. Sword sticks and sticks with a mechanism for firing.

465. Purses of linen or cotton.

466. Stockings, socks, fringes, tassels, laces, ribbons, bands, tapes, trimmings, plushes, caps, mantles, capes, waistbands, bows, epaulettes, list shoes, gloves of wool or of wool mixed with cotton.

467. Boots and shoes only cut out or without soles, and rugs of sheepskins.

468. Woven uppers for sandals.

469. Rugs, carpets, and all other articles of crochet, except those of silk.

470. Chasubles, corporal cases, altar cloths, bands, dalmatics, stoles, maniples, chalice covers, and other ecclesiastic vestments and church ornaments.

471. Curtains, hangings, and mosquito nets, of linen or cotton.

472. Lace, embroidered bands, edgings, ribbons, borders, epaulettes, tassels, cords, fringes, scarfs, braids, gloves, and trimmings of linen or cotton.

473. Swords, sabers, daggers, fine hunting knives, blunderbusses, pistols, revolvers, guns, muskets, rifles, carbines, and other arms for artillery and infantry, including projectiles, percussion caps, gunlocks, cartridges, loaded or empty, and everything relating to side or fire arms, and compressed-air guns for target practice.

474. Pyrotechnic or Bengal lights.

475. Fireworks.

476. Back cloth for horses, all kinds.

477. Stockings of linen, or of linen mixed with cotton, and those of Scotch twisted yarn.

478. Shot bags, powderflasks, cap boxes, and game bags.

479. Muslins, crépons of cotton, colored, lawn, cotton gauze, called "rengue," barege, grenadine, organdy, zephyr, very fine linen cloth,

called "clairn dulce," "sueño" tarlatan, "imité," batiste of Holland, cotton batiste, white or colored, plain, worked, transparent, or embroidered, in pieces or patterns for dresses, and all other tissues similar to the above and not included in other classes.

480. Muslins and batistes of linen, or of linen mixed with other materials, unbleached or colored, in pieces or patterns for clothes.

481. Cotton velvet, cotton plush and imitation velvet, in pieces or ribbons.

482. Fine and common woolen cloth, cassimere, bassinette, muslin, satin, knitted goods, flannel, "lanilla," bombazine, alpaca, crape, merino, serge, lasting, damask, and all other tissues of wool or of wool mixed with cotton, not mentioned in other classes, unless made up into wearing apparel, which would bring them under Class IX.

483. Shawls, foulards, and scarfs, large and small, of muslin, lawn, knitted goods, or other fine cotton tissues, and tissues made of ramie, or of cotton mixed with this fiber.

484. Handkerchiefs, shawls, table covers, of wool, or of wool mixed with cotton, neither ornamented nor embroidered with silk.

485. Umbrellas, sunshades, and parasols of silk, or of silk mixed with wool or cotton.

486. Skins, tanned, manufactured in any shape, not mentioned in other classes.

487. Guipure or tulle, of cotton or pita, and crape bands for hats.

488. Saddles, headpieces, gun cases and pistol holsters, reins, girths, cruppers, and sheepskin horse covers of all kinds.

489. Tobacco leaf, and tobacco stalks.

CLASS VIII.—*Duty 10 bolivars (\$1.93) per kilogram.*

490. Ornaments and nets for headdress of all kinds.

491. Human hair and its imitations, worked or not.

492. Shirts, made up, of cotton, without any part of linen.

493. Cigarettes, of paper or maize leaf.

494. Neckties, cotton, haircloth, or wool.

495. Suspenders, corsets, corset covers, garters of all kinds.

496. Skirts, petticoats, nightdresses, pillowcases, dresses, of linen or linen mixed with cotton, **except** those of batiste or "clarin" lawn, of linen or linen mixed with wool, which belong to Class IX.

497. Flowers and fruits, artificial, not otherwise mentioned, and materials for making flowers, with the exception of colored paper, comprised in Class VI.

498. Skin gloves, with the exception of fencing gloves, belonging to Class V.

499. Dutch batiste, light tissue "clarin," knitted goods, zephyr, lawn, tarlatan, muslin, and all other fine linen or cotton tissues made up into articles such as frills, ruches, infant capes, skirts, cuffs, chem-

isettes, and other similar articles and adornments not mentioned in other classes.

500. Books and albums bound in velvet, silk, mother-of-pearl, tortoise shell, ivory, Russian leather, with ornaments gilt or silvered.

501. Handkerchiefs of linen or linen mixed with cotton.

502. Book covers imported separately, and removable book covers.

503. Feathers for hats and bonnets, and other similar uses, and hearse plumes, imported separately from the hearses.

504. Cloths or tissues of all kinds, mixed or embroidered with gold or silver, real or imitation, except ecclesiastical articles and ornaments which belong to Class VII.

505. Cloths or tissues, woolen or of wool mixed with cotton, prepared for mosquito nets, hangings, curtains, or other articles not enumerated.

506. Tobacco manufactured and prepared in whatever form, not specified. Cigarettes with tobacco wrapping.

CLASS IX.—Duty 20 bolivars (\$3.86) per kilogram.

507. Shirts made up of linen and of wool, and those of cotton mixed with linen, pants, jackets, blouses, vests, drawers, paletots, sacks, coats, and any other piece of clothing made up of linen or cotton, for men, not specified.

508. Collars, bosoms, and cuffs made up of linen or cotton, for men and women.

509. Bag nets (chinchorros) of all kinds.

510. Placards, show cards, and handbills printed or lithographed.

511. Cigarette wrappers.

512. Shoes and boots of all classes, and tanned skins made up in shoes.

513. Skirts, petticoats, nightgowns, pillow cases, and dresses of batiste or clarin lawn, linen, or of linen mixed with cotton.

514. Labels of all kinds, printed or lithographed, which are not attached to any article, and printed visiting cards, with or without colored designs.

515. Jewels, pearls, precious stones, and fine jewelry, and articles wholly or in part of gold and silver, watches of any material, empty watch cases, and jewelry cases, even if imported separately.

516. Cloths ("pañó" and "pañete"), cassimer, satin, knitted goods, flannel, "alepin," alpaca, "cambrón," serge, "cúbica," damask of wool, or of wool mixed with cotton, made up in men's clothing.

517. Silk, pure or mixed with other materials, and tissues of other materials mixed with silk.

518. Envelopes of all kinds, finished or only cut out.

519. Hats, bonnets, "pavas," and caps trimmed for women and children.

520. Hats of black silk plush, with high crowns, and similar hats of any material, including opera hats, hats simply cut out, hats of fulled felt, and all other kinds of hats, wholly or partially finished, excepting those of straw or their imitations.

521. Advertisement cards (large), printed or lithographed.

522. Tarlatan, silk, wool, batiste of Holland, light tissue "clarin," zephyr, lawn, muslin, and all other tissues of linen or cotton, made up into ladies' wearing apparel.

523. Men's clothing of wool, linen, or cotton, with the exception of that mentioned in other classes.

ART. 2. The customs duties established by this tariff shall be levied on the gross weight.

ART. 3. The following articles shall be admitted free from duty:

1. Articles imported by order of the Federal Government.

2. Live animals, with the exception of leeches.

3. Personal effects brought by foreign public ministers, or by the diplomatic agents of the Republic on their return to Venezuela.

4. Baggage brought by passengers, with the exception of those articles which have not been used, or of pieces of furniture, which shall pay duty according to its class, even if used, subject, however, to a rebate proportionate to the deterioration resulting from use.

The duty to be levied on unused articles coming with passengers' baggage shall be increased by 20 per cent, and if the articles come from the Antilles they shall pay 30 per cent additional.

5. Ice imported into localities where no ice factories authorized by the Government have been established, or where the established ones are not in operation; coal; coal used to produce the arc electrical light, acetylene gas, and trisulphite of lime.

6. Fruits and natural products of Colombia imported through the Colombian frontier, provided that fruits and natural products of Venezuela when similarly imported into Colombia are granted the same benefit.

7. Samples of tissues in small strips, not exceeding 25 kilograms in weight, and also of wall paper, not exceeding 50 centimeters in length, or of other articles which, owing to their size or other circumstances, can not be offered for sale.

8. Legal gold coin.

9. Frames ("almas"), bottoms, or boilers of iron, gridirons, roasters ("tambores"), and rollers for pressing cane ("trapiches"), and the axles, frames, and pieces thereof.

10. Plows and plowshares, hoes, spades, sickles, billhooks, and scythes, weeding hooks, hatchets, shovels, picks, "tasies," and cutlasses with or without wooden handles, and matchets (common cutlass) for lopping.

11. Barbed wire for fences, and also hooks for fastening the same, as shown in the illustration accompanying the decree of June 13, 1894.

12. Printing presses and typographical accessories, such as type, lines, printing ink, including inks for lithographing, and white printing paper, neither glued nor gummed, and also paper paste for making stereotype plates, and alloy of lead and aluminium employed for stereotype printing.

13. Machinery for use in agriculture, mines, weaving, sawmills, and foundries, not otherwise mentioned, and extra pieces for repairing sugar mills ("trapiches") and other agricultural machinery.

ART. 4. The importation of the following articles is forbidden:

1. Cocoanut oil.
2. Starch.
3. Indigo.
4. Cacao.
5. Coffee.
6. Molasses and honey.
7. Salted jerked meat ("tasajo").
8. Salt.
9. Sarsaparilla root.
10. Silver, nickel, and copper coins.
11. Apparatus for coining money, unless imported by the National Government.

Sole paragraph.—Should the Executive Power deem it expedient to authorize the importation, through the custom-houses of the Republic, of any prohibited article, it shall fix the duty to be levied on such article, and report to Congress at its first session.

ART. 5. The Executive Power may totally or partially prohibit the importation of any kinds of tissue, ready-made wearing apparel, hats, bonnets, and caps, and debar entry thereof through the custom-houses of the Republic, if the industries and manufactories in districts producing goods of the above description have, in importance and development, reached a sufficient degree to meet the demands of consumption, provided that purchasers do not suffer in consequence of such prohibition.

ART. 6. For the importation of dutiable firearms through the custom-houses of the Republic, as well as of powder, shot, cartridges, caps, primers, flints, saltpeter, and all other explosive materials not mentioned in the present law, a special permission or order from the General Government is necessary.

Sole paragraph.—Arms of precision and all war articles exclusively intended for the arsenals can only be imported by the National Government.

ART. 7. For all articles mentioned in the tariff the material from which they are made will not be considered, the class under which

they are placed being solely taken into account. Hence trusses, syringes, clyster pumps, toys, masks, spectacles, portfolios, cardcases, and all other articles mentioned shall pay the duty of the class to which they belong, whatever be the material from which manufactured, except when they are partially made of gold or silver, in which case they are comprised in Class VIII.

ART. 8. Packages containing samples of tissue in small pieces or samples of wall paper weighing more than 25 kilograms shall, for the weight exceeding 25 kilograms, pay the duty stipulated in Class III.

ART. 9. When goods or products subject to import duties are imported, such goods being unknown in the country and not specified in the tariff nor in the latest resolutions of the Department of Finance, the importers can state this fact in their manifests and address a petition to the Government, accompanied by a sample of the goods or products, to permit the proper denomination or classification thereof. The respective custom-house shall report upon this petition.

ART. 10. Machines, tools, and other mining apparatus can enjoy the exemption from import duties but once for each mining company, and the extra parts imported to replace the same shall not enjoy this exemption.

ART. 11. The custom-houses shall not, without previous order from the Minister of Finance, authorize the importation free of duty of those articles entitled to this privilege only by virtue of existing contracts or special laws.

ART. 12. Unused foreign articles brought by passengers with their baggage shall pay, in addition to the regular duty, a surtax of 20 per cent thereon.

ART. 13. The Executive Power is authorized to increase, decrease, or abolish any of the duties of the present tariff leviable on alimentary products of primary necessity, subject, however, to reporting to Congress the measures which it deems proper to take.

ART. 14. Should articles be imported in separate parts, whether in one or more packages, the duty thereon shall be the same as if they were imported in the whole.

ART. 15. The law of October 10, 1900, and all former Executive orders on this subject are hereby repealed.

Given at the Federal Legislative Palace, Caracas, May 10, 1902.

Approved, May 19, 1902.

CORRECTIONS OF ERRORS FOUND IN THE TEXT OF THE LAW OF MAY 19, 1902, ESTABLISHING THE IMPORT DUTY TARIFF.

[Gaceta Oficial of June 30, 1902.]

The Customs Law, edition of which dated June 18 instant was erroneous, is ordered to be reprinted.

The errors detected are as below:

Goods mentioned under Tariff Nos. 507, 508, and 509 are not to be placed in Class VIII, but in Class IX under Nos. 521, 522, and 523. The numeration of items 510 and following is modified accordingly, so that these items will become, respectively, Nos. 507, 508, and so on up to No. 520.

MODIFICATIONS OF THE TARIFF.

[UNITED STATES OF VENEZUELA—DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND PUBLIC CREDIT—DIRECTION OF CUSTOMS AND SALT MINES—CARACAS, JULY 29, 1902.]

Resolved, In exercise of the authority conferred upon the Executive Power by article 13 of the import tariff law to diminish any classification under said tariff when unforeseen circumstances should render any such alteration necessary, the Second Vice-President, in exercise of the National Executive, has resolved:

That from and after this date, on the importation through the customs of the Republic of the hereinafter-mentioned articles, they shall be placed on the eighth class of the tariff; that is to say:

Ready-made linen and woolen shirts and those of cotton which have any part of linen, trousers, jackets, blouses, vests, drawers, coats, sacks, frock coats, and all articles of men's clothing made of linen or cotton and not included in other classes.

Collars, false bosoms, and cuffs of linen or cotton, for men and women.

Fishing nets of all kinds.

Petticoats, underskirts, pillowcases, chemises of Dutch batiste or linen clarin, or mixed with cotton.

Jewels, pearls, fine stones and gems, and articles entirely or partly of gold, watches of whatever material they may be, empty watch and jewel boxes, although imported apart.

Silk, whether pure or mixed with any other material, and silk or other clothes which contain silk.

To be communicated to the customs of the Republic for uniformity in classification, and to be published.

ORDINANCE OF DECEMBER 18, 1902, CLASSIFYING FOR DUTY COPPER SHEETS EMBOSSED ("ABOTONADO").

[Gaceta Oficial No. 8722, of December 19, 1902.]

By virtue of the present ordinance, copper sheets embossed ("abotonado"), used in the manufacture of cylinders for separating the drupes of coffee, are to be included in Class III of the tariff.

ORDINANCE DATED JANUARY 30, 1903, RANGING WOOD PAPER UNDER
CLASS II OF TARIFF.

[Gaceta Oficial No. 8757, of January 30, 1903.]

This ordinance provides that wood paper of a havana yellow color, and solely used in commerce for wrapping goods, shall be ranged in Class II of the tariff by assimilation to packing paper, which it resembles by its nature and application.

DECREE OF FEBRUARY 16, 1903, LEVYING A WAR TAX ON IMPORTS AND
EXPORTS.

[Gaceta Oficial, No. 8771, of February 16, 1903.]

ARTICLE 1. From and after the date of publication of this decree in the "Gaceta Oficial" there shall be levied by the officials appointed for the purpose an extraordinary war contribution, as follows:

1. Goods of foreign origin shall, on entering, pay a surtax of 30 per cent on the import duties applicable thereto according to laws in force.

2. The exportation of coffee is subject to a duty of 2 bolivars per 50 kilograms.

3. Sweetened cocoa ("cacao dulce") of first quality shall pay 16 bolivars per 50 kilograms, and other kinds of cocoa shall be liable to 6 bolivars per 50 kilograms.

4. Oxhides shall pay on exportation 4 bolivars per 46 kilograms, and deer and buck skins 5 bolivars per 46 kilograms.

ART. 2. Customs administrators will deliver to the officials collecting the war tax a copy of the statements of liquidations of import duties levied on foreign goods.

ART. 3. On receipt of the liquidations referred to in above article 1 the officials charged with the collection shall proceed to levy the respective 30 per cent. The amount so received, as well as the proceeds of the tax by this decree imposed on coffee, cocoa, and skins, shall be paid over by the aforesaid officials to the General War Commissariat at Caracas.

ART. 4. The Minister of Finance and Public Credit, and also the Ministers of War and Marine, are intrusted with the execution of the present decree.

DECISION OF APRIL 14, 1903, CLASSIFYING COMMON COTTON DUCK.

[Gaceta Oficial, No. 8818, of April 14, 1903.]

In virtue of the present decision, common cotton duck sized by lime process is only to be included in Class IV of the tariff when not containing more than 10 threads in warp or woof in a square of 5 millimeters. When such tissue, even sized by lime process, contains more than 10 threads, it shall come under Class V of the tariff.

DECISION DATED APRIL 15, 1903, AS TO IMPORTATION OF ROMAN CEMENT.

[Gaceta Oficial, No. 8819, of April 15, 1903.]

From the date of this decision the customs duty of 5 centimes (B. 0.5) applicable on imported Roman cement is abolished.

DECISION OF APRIL 23, 1903, RELATIVE TO IMPORTATION OF PINE OR PITCH-PINE BLOCKS.

[Gaceta Oficial, No. 8826, of April 23, 1903.]

From the date of this decision the customs duty applicable to imported pine and pitch-pine blocks exceeding 25 centimeters in thickness is removed.

ORDINANCE DATED JUNE 1, 1903, CLASSIFYING FOR DUTY CERTAIN IMPORTED GOODS.

[Gaceta Oficial, No. 8859, of June 1, 1903.]

From and after this date the undermentioned goods when imported from abroad through the custom-houses of the Republic shall be classified as follows:

1. Sardines, whether pressed, preserved in oil, with tomatoes, or otherwise prepared, shall be included in Class II, and pay 10 centimes (B. 0.10) per kilogram.

2. Alimentary preserves shall be ranged in Class III, at the rate of 25 centimes (B. 0.25) per kilogram.

3. Surgical instruments for dentists, anatomy, and other sciences, patent medicines and chemicals, buckles covered with leather, and tooth, hair, clothes, and shoe brushes shall be comprised in Class IV, at the rate of 75 centimes (B. 0.75) per kilogram.

4. Buttons of all kinds, except of silk, silver, or gold, also toilet rice powder, shall be dutiable according to Class V, at the rate of 1 bolivar 25 centimes (B. 1.25) per kilogram.

5. Fans of all kinds shall be liable to duty under Class VI, at the rate of 2 bolivars 50 centimes (B. 2.50) per kilogram.

ORDINANCE OF JUNE 8, 1903, ESTABLISHING THE RÉGIME APPLICABLE ON IMPORTATION OF FATTY ACID.

[Gaceta Oficial, No. 8865, of June 8, 1903.]

In virtue of this ordinance fatty acid imported through the custom-houses of the Republic shall, as being a similar product, be dutiable as tallow (stearin) prepared for the manufacture of candles under Class III of tariff.

ORDINANCE OF JUNE 13, 1903, DETERMINING THE TARIFF CLASSIFICATION OF PATENT MEDICINES AND CHEMICALS.

[Gaceta Oficial, No. 8870, of June 13, 1903.]

This ordinance provides that for a period of forty days, computed from the 1st of this month (June), patent medicines and chemicals of foreign origin, even though same may be declared in the manifests under the name of medicines not specially enumerated or packed therewith in the same parcel, shall always be included in Class IV, as provided in Ministerial Order of the 1st instant. (See Ch. I above.)

ORDINANCE OF JUNE 18, 1903, CLASSIFYING PLAITS OR RIBBONS OF LINEN, COTTON, OR WOOL COMBINED WITH RUBBER.

[Gaceta Oficial, No. 8874, of June 18, 1903.]

In accordance with this ordinance, plaits or ribbons of linen, cotton, or wool combined with rubber for the purpose of giving same elasticity, shall be treated, on importation through custom-houses of the Republic, as like plaits or ribbons not combined with rubber.

ORDINANCE DATED JULY 29, 1903, CLASSIFYING CRUSHED OATS.

[Gaceta Oficial No. 8909, of July 29, 1903.]

By virtue of the present ordinance, crushed oats shall be included in Class III of the tariff in the same way as wheat and maize under like conditions.

RESOLUTION OF AUGUST 20, 1903, RELATING TO THE CUSTOMS CLASSIFICATION OF PATENT MEDICINES.

[Gaceta Oficial, No. 8928, of August 20, 1903.]

This resolution provides that in case the articles referred to in the resolution dated December 24, 1901, are imported under the denomination of patent medicines, but do not state same on the containers or in accompanying prospectuses, they shall be dutiable according to Class V of the tariff as unenumerated medicines. Such products shall, however, not be liable to forfeiture until otherwise ordered by the Government.

DECREE OF SEPTEMBER 26, 1903, RELATING TO THE EXPORTATION OF CATTLE.

[Gaceta Oficial, No. 8966, of October 3, 1903.]

ARTICLE 1. An export duty at the rate of 8 bolivars on every head of young cattle such as calves, steers, half-grown cattle, bullocks, and heifers weighing less than 200 kilos each. Cattle of greater weight shall be free of duty on exportation, with the exception of cows.

ART. 2. Sterile cows exported abroad shall be dutiable at 20 bolivars per head. Exporters are required to obtain from the department of finance special permits for each shipment, and their application must be accompanied by a receipt from the Bank of Venezuela or its agencies showing that the tax has been duly paid.

ART. 3. The decrees dated November 26, 1901, and April 13 of this year, relating to the exportation of cattle for slaughter are hereby repealed.

RESOLUTION OF SEPTEMBER 28, 1903, IN REFERENCE TO MATCHES.

[Gaceta Oficial, No. 8961, of September 28, 1903.]

Matches of all kinds imported through the custom-houses of the Republic shall be included in Class VI of the tariff. The new classification shall take effect from the date of the present resolution, and apply to imports from Europe or the United States for which the consular invoices are dated on or after this date.

DECISION OF SEPTEMBER 30, 1903, ESTABLISHING THE CLASSIFICATION OF CLOTH-RUBBERED CLOTH BANDS FOR LOW-POWER MACHINE BELTING.

[Gaceta Oficial, No. 8974, of October 13, 1903.]

This decision provides that narrow-rubbered cloth bands for low-power machine belting, such as for cigarette-making machines, are to be comprised in the fourth class of the tariff when imported from abroad.

RESOLUTION DATED OCTOBER 16, 1903, AS TO THE CLASSIFICATION OF PHONOGRAPH CYLINDERS AND ACCESSORIES.

[Gaceta Oficial, No. 8977, of October 16, 1903.]

This resolution provides that "cylinders and accessories for phonographs" imported separately from such apparatus shall be dutiable according to Class V of the tariff.

RESOLUTION OF DECEMBER 12, 1903, ESTABLISHING THE CUSTOMS TREATMENT OF "CASUPOS" OR STRAW OR CARDBOARD ENVELOPES FOR WRAPPING BOTTLES.

[Gaceta Oficial, No. 9025, of December 12, 1903.]

This resolution provides that "casupos" or straw or cardboard envelopes for wrapping bottles shall be assessed on importation according to the second class of the tariff.

RESOLUTION DATED DECEMBER 12, 1903, CLASSIFYING FOR DUTY LIGHT UNBLEACHED LINEN AND COTTON CLOTH CALLED "SANITAS."

[Gaceta Oficial, No. 9028, of December 14, 1903.]

By virtue of this resolution "light unbleached linen and cotton cloth called sanitas" shall be dutiable under Class IV of the tariff.

**RESOLUTION OF JANUARY 19, 1904, CLASSIFYING CAOUTCHOUC TUBES
OR HOSE FOR DUTY.**

[Gaceta Oficial, No. 9056, of January 19, 1904.]

This resolution provides that the caoutchouc tubes or hose classed in No. 294 of the tariff in force only include such tubes or hose as are adaptable to pumps or hydrants, whether strengthened with stuff or not, and having an interior diameter of a centimeter at least. Caoutchouc tubes or pipes of a smaller diameter, imported with irrigateurs, are dutiable, together with the reservoirs of the latter, according to Class V, and if imported separately therefrom come under Class VI of the tariff (No. 441) as caoutchouc manufactures.

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CHAPTER X.

FINANCIAL ORGANIZATION—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE— PUBLIC DEBT—BANKING—CURRENCY.

FINANCIAL ORGANIZATION.

NATIONAL PROPERTY.

The public treasure (hacienda) of the United States of Venezuela consists of the aggregate property, revenue, taxes, dues, and bonds belonging to the Government of the Union. (Fiscal Code, Law I, art. 1.)

The most important data which give a knowledge of the national treasure shall be centralized in the general bureau of accounts, where they shall be filed and inscribed in the Great Book of the National Treasury. (Fiscal Code, Law I, arts. 2-5).

Articles 1 to 9, Law III of the Fiscal Code, give a detailed list of what is considered national property.

REVENUE.

The sources of revenue are the following:

1. All national products and services.
2. The product of custom-house dues levied on foreign goods imported.
3. The product of other national taxes already established or which may hereafter be established.
4. The product of sundry receipts, such as fines, interest, exports, etc.
5. The product of debts collected by the treasury on account of revenue and taxes established by law.
6. The product of the administration of mines, salt mines, and public lands yielded by the States according to the constitution. (Fiscal Code, Law IV, arts. 1-3.)

CUSTOMS DUTIES.

Division of customs duties.—Customs duties consist of import and warehouse dues, interest, and fines, and are divided as follows:

	Per cent.
Assigned to meet the budget expenditure	46.88
Assigned to the service of the 3 per cent external debt.....	10.80
Assigned to the service of the Diskonto loan (1896).....	11.12

	Per cent.
Assigned to the service of the 6 per cent consolidated internal debt	17
Assigned for the payment of foreign claims (equivalent to 13 per cent of the 40 units)	5.20
Assigned for improvements and public works	9

Land customs dues.—Foreign merchandise shall pay, on being introduced through the custom-houses of the Republic, 12½ per cent on the sum paid by the importer to said custom-houses for import duties.

NATIONAL FINANCES.

National wealth or treasure is the net product of the revenue which is collected by the national treasury bureaus. (Fiscal Code, Law V, art. 1.)

BUDGET LAW.

The budget law shall be framed according to the following rules:

1. The budget shall be divided into two parts. The first part shall be called "Budget of revenue," and shall consist of a list methodically classifying the revenue, taxes, and other branches of income which constitute national property, making an estimate of the gross probable receipts of each fiscal year following the meeting of Congress.

The second part, called "Budget of expenditure," shall likewise consist of a list methodically classifying all expenditure to be incurred in each department, classifying it by chapters, taking into account the alterations which Congress may make and are to be carried out within the same fiscal year. (Fiscal Code, Law VIII, art. 1.)

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

Revenue and expenditure from 1831 to 1903.—The following table shows the revenue and expenditure of Venezuela from 1831 to 1903, compiled from official data:

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
1830-31.....	^a \$1,106,148.91	^a \$981,225.37	1886-87.....	^a \$6,477,865.10	^a \$5,508,351.94
1835-36.....	1,013,885.43	922,764.66	1887-88.....	5,831,327.33	5,317,927.05
1838-39.....	1,536,190.65	1,112,937.53	1888-89.....	7,768,021.75	7,196,517.66
1840-41.....	2,021,932.20	1,989,365.09	1889-90.....	8,659,504.54	8,781,141.98
1845-46.....	1,896,109.35	1,807,669.58	1890-91.....	9,590,506.00	9,594,887.00
1850-51.....	3,166,512.51	2,688,849.21	1891-92.....	8,313,282.00	8,141,672.00
1854-55.....	3,177,546.57	2,883,085.27	1892-93.....	7,661,273.00	7,861,672.00
1859-60.....	3,188,580.82	3,192,720.90	1893-94.....	9,331,372.00	9,342,300.00
1864-65.....	5,768,257.36	3,658,819.22	1894-95.....	9,115,372.00	8,775,187.00
1872-73.....	4,562,632.87	2,894,999.55	1895-96.....	10,834,648.00	13,191,957.00
1873-74.....	6,712,932.44	5,008,790.99	1896-97.....	^b 9,662,707.00	^b 20,580,956.00
1874-75.....	6,444,049.92	5,906,623.34	1897-98.....	6,685,965.00	9,108,504.00
1875-76.....	6,172,768.46	4,211,979.59	1898-99.....	7,526,789.00	7,526,789.00
1876-77.....	4,966,287.88	4,602,558.20	1899-1900.....	^c 7,729,292.00	^c 7,729,292.00
1881-82.....	5,571,816.16	5,360,007.51	1900-1901.....	8,352,783.00	8,874,375.00
1882-83.....	5,574,300.57	4,812,206.90	1901-2.....	4,992,472.00	6,208,795.00
1883-84.....	6,581,542.65	6,922,823.45	1902-3.....	6,898,882.00	6,866,884.00
1884-85.....	6,718,868.91	6,635,377.78			
1885-86.....	5,247,709.80	5,958,416.88	Total.....	308,269,125.08	212,647,638.54

^a U. S. currency, taking one venezolano and 5 bolivars as equivalent to the United States dollar.

^b These figures include emissions and conversions of bonds and payment of interest and sinking funds. (Mem. de Hacienda, 1898, vol. 1, p. v.)

^c A cash balance of \$800,000 remained on deposit.

Customs duties, 1885 to 1894.—The following table shows the customs duties levied on merchandise imported through the custom-houses of the Republic from 1885 to 1894:

Custom-house.	1884 to 1885.	1885 to 1886.	1886 to 1887.	1887 to 1888.	1888 to 1889.
	<i>Bolivars.</i>	<i>Bolivars.</i>	<i>Bolivars.</i>	<i>Bolivars.</i>	<i>Bolivars.</i>
La Guaira	9,642,833.20	7,281,888.75	9,717,906.76	12,496,998.70	12,728,789.90
Puerto Cabello	6,248,719.26	4,168,891.89	6,998,298.18	8,992,738.57	8,270,986.51
Ciudad Bolivar	3,309,224.28	2,890,964.58	2,574,162.70	2,438,082.83	2,430,994.79
Maracaibo	2,150,286.94	2,371,029.46	2,355,099.99	3,879,761.38	3,213,881.35
Cardano	644,048.77	261,662.87	481,489.44	623,106.67	660,284.88
Guanta	148,629.91	48,879.78	44,395.73	40,941.08	75,763.08
Puerto Sucre	64,365.35	12,551.65	8,357.78	23,523.73	48,383.09
Cafio Colorado	90,726.57	128,217.78	90,661.58	102,102.42	70,982.85
La Vela	87,498.43	106,647.49	234,785.06	206,130.97	136,132.55
Táchira	380,482.31	358,275.58	537,654.39	815,786.19	560,782.85
Güiria	107,226.65	108,168.57	142,641.13	106,883.85	81,175.39
Juan Griego	62,644.49	6,760.43	17,944.56	6,645.00	14,639.49
Total	22,936,636.86	17,242,958.73	28,208,397.22	29,782,653.34	28,282,736.73

Custom-house.	1889 to 1890.	1890 to 1891.	1891 to 1892.	1892 to 1893.	1893 to 1894.
	<i>Bolivars.</i>	<i>Bolivars.</i>	<i>Bolivars.</i>	<i>Bolivars.</i>	<i>Bolivars.</i>
La Guaira	15,720,788.30	19,377,571.57	17,843,172.15	18,152,973.70	16,856,148.54
Puerto Cabello	9,299,176.01	11,281,735.17	8,673,343.27	6,910,037.58	10,930,712.91
Ciudad Bolivar	2,438,146.91	2,451,788.44	1,758,938.91	1,950,445.65	2,358,951.20
Maracaibo	4,045,376.88	4,640,079.99	4,588,438.22	2,988,781.55	4,841,566.20
Cardano	594,128.35	841,662.08	449,744.31	635,758.64	897,786.92
Guanta	14,367.88	21,816.22	2,613.00	107,129.56	809,797.06
Puerto Sucre	53,519.07	41,815.00	54,591.43	50,549.15	131,894.39
Cafio Colorado	104,960.48	86,558.47	94,752.70	80,754.63	139,502.99
La Vela	174,530.97	332,274.79	110,813.97	309,081.39	275,972.92
Táchira	975,163.54	919,214.01	550,968.73	886,938.08	732,720.73
Güiria	36,974.97	29,705.49	49,492.38	53,503.11	58,861.43
Juan Griego	349.70	5,063.00	5,635.00	223.00	8,827.97
Total	33,557,477.06	40,028,779.23	33,676,994.02	26,576,176.01	37,342,233.26

a Five bolivars taken as equivalent to the United States dollar.

Custom-house receipts, 1885-1894.—The following table shows the amount of revenue collected from different sources by the custom-houses of the Republic from 1885 to 1894:

Custom-house.	1884 to 1885.	1885 to 1886.	1886 to 1887.	1887 to 1888.	1888 to 1889.
	<i>Bolivars.</i>	<i>Bolivars.</i>	<i>Bolivars.</i>	<i>Bolivars.</i>	<i>Bolivars.</i>
La Guaira	10,262,805.98	7,838,972.95	10,450,020.47	13,207,666.60	13,728,572.43
Puerto Cabello	6,727,061.63	4,642,762.38	7,522,171.24	9,602,797.54	8,844,783.52
Ciudad Bolivar	3,645,217.94	2,682,840.73	2,737,563.82	2,726,648.37	2,694,566.62
Maracaibo	4,391,844.06	4,434,342.05	4,457,069.19	7,784,804.07	6,331,597.33
Cardano	740,897.29	367,230.69	568,216.75	721,582.04	775,154.11
Guanta	292,868.03	257,711.15	238,443.69	143,384.82	161,591.05
Puerto Sucre	456,936.51	144,804.04	361,617.21	236,396.19	363,473.12
Cafio Colorado	147,242.32	176,600.71	143,148.91	155,762.11	123,034.12
La Vela	377,139.68	323,268.82	432,379.69	467,496.10	387,576.18
Táchira	426,596.96	446,584.93	585,282.61	572,306.05	615,429.67
Güiria	186,259.11	149,963.11	189,143.11	168,196.11	131,330.67
Juan Griego	215,532.13	294,579.17	413,298.32	385,213.24	348,909.61
Total	27,870,393.63	21,759,300.63	28,098,320.01	36,462,253.24	34,505,968.58

a Five bolivars taken as equivalent to the United States dollar.

Custom-house.	1889 to 1890.	1890 to 1891.	1891 to 1892.	1892 to 1893.	1893 to 1894.
	<i>Bolivars.</i>	<i>Bolivars.</i>	<i>Bolivars.</i>	<i>Bolivars.</i>	<i>Bolivars.</i>
La Guaira	16,361,740.39	20,132,009.94	17,814,228.96	14,342,312.15	18,951,570.24
Puerto Cabello	10,026,095.84	11,924,779.32	9,150,943.80	8,708,136.27	11,574,117.10
Ciudad Bolívar	2,717,708.67	2,725,204.65	1,915,129.21	2,647,116.84	2,641,867.12
Maracaibo	8,496,478.58	8,891,099.91	9,443,451.58	8,287,608.74	9,870,064.47
Caripano	686,903.15	942,424.46	535,080.99	947,731.00	1,011,489.60
Guanta	199,687.58	187,041.88	196,571.57	219,337.08	435,195.27
Puerto Sucre	268,166.07	282,082.02	221,158.39	394,669.28	459,328.32
Cafio Colorado	156,817.33	139,606.28	145,824.16	88,611.02	192,037.63
La Vela	339,159.47	542,936.77	267,668.96	617,843.94	486,665.40
Táchira	1,028,730.73	968,935.74	615,636.73	467,856.71	793,185.06
Güiria	90,161.57	826,626.09	95,715.83	103,140.77	114,184.02
Juan Griego	378,215.82	411,712.49	307,460.51	115,929.37	182,802.22
Total	a 40,749,865.15	47,974,438.55	40,708,360.69	36,809,994.17	46,711,504.42

a Five bolivars taken as equivalent to the United States dollar.

Custom-house expenditures from 1885 to 1894.—The following table shows the amounts paid by the different custom-houses from 1885 to 1894:

Custom-houses.	1884 to 1885.	1885 to 1886.	1886 to 1887.	1887 to 1888.	1888 to 1889.
	<i>Bolivars.</i>	<i>Bolivars.</i>	<i>Bolivars.</i>	<i>Bolivars.</i>	<i>Bolivars.</i>
La Guaira	10,812,781.86	8,091,815.25	10,123,106.37	12,800,792.05	12,905,896.23
Puerto Cabello	6,734,043.13	4,628,500.82	7,510,874.24	9,593,702.54	8,876,077.02
Ciudad Bolívar	3,635,649.75	2,678,847.73	2,811,566.88	2,716,738.77	2,693,815.72
Maracaibo	4,642,596.71	4,228,697.54	4,513,608.25	7,475,850.52	6,311,585.33
Caripano	745,067.29	358,657.59	579,162.25	728,419.54	733,751.66
Guanta	313,175.53	212,251.65	221,703.69	167,912.22	204,427.05
Puerto Sucre	271,696.51	210,159.54	309,686.71	306,990.19	332,748.12
Cafio Colorado	144,741.32	177,900.21	139,103.91	155,338.11	123,017.24
La Vela	355,858.38	327,264.67	463,548.84	461,830.15	370,009.28
Táchira	429,033.95	403,408.68	585,494.60	872,862.55	612,065.27
Güiria	182,207.11	152,206.11	187,542.11	158,335.11	130,996.67
Juan Griego	379,513.28	429,214.27	315,489.12	398,908.59	394,545.26
Total	a 28,646,359.32	21,898,424.06	27,765,881.97	35,830,180.34	33,738,937.85

Custom-house.	1889 to 1890.	1890 to 1891.	1891 to 1892.	1892 to 1893.	1893 to 1894.
	<i>Bolivars.</i>	<i>Bolivars.</i>	<i>Bolivars.</i>	<i>Bolivars.</i>	<i>Bolivars.</i>
La Guaira	15,965,513.29	20,624,026.69	18,275,872.46	15,758,977.10	18,624,960.29
Puerto Cabello	9,914,085.84	11,906,876.82	9,146,281.80	8,583,199.27	11,564,957.10
Ciudad Bolívar	2,702,475.64	2,715,318.16	1,902,665.59	2,640,692.99	2,642,873.25
Maracaibo	8,508,852.46	9,077,188.74	9,743,704.13	8,396,906.21	9,946,816.87
Caripano	691,660.15	1,055,309.46	583,150.99	816,414.50	1,141,580.60
Guanta	172,767.52	160,635.88	263,798.57	271,843.58	508,669.77
Puerto Sucre	262,091.07	262,040.52	139,226.89	370,756.29	449,807.32
Cafio Colorado	157,528.33	139,344.28	145,547.16	82,302.02	192,965.63
La Vela	383,894.42	504,863.07	386,951.96	679,531.56	478,208.44
Táchira	1,029,542.99	973,404.74	609,311.73	467,856.71	793,185.06
Güiria	89,958.37	88,960.59	92,285.33	118,106.77	111,456.52
Juan Griego	323,397.82	444,564.49	327,520.51	140,779.87	204,359.72
Total	a 40,196,768.10	47,952,533.44	41,566,312.12	38,306,366.87	46,659,860.54

a Five bolivars taken as equivalent to the United States dollar.

Salt revenue in 1894.—The following table shows the returns of the salt mines of the Republic during the year 1894:

Salt-mine agency.	Value of permits.	Levied on weight.	Smuggled salt seized.	Interest on promissory notes.	Tax on loading salt.	Total.
	<i>Bolivars.</i>	<i>Bolivars.</i>	<i>Bolivars.</i>	<i>Bolivars.</i>	<i>Bolivars.</i>	<i>Bolivars.</i>
La Guaira.....	415,735.00	343.91	.....	3,093.61	.....	419,172.52
Puerto Cabello.....	123,600.00	1,158.90	.....	2,889.28	.....	127,648.18
Cumaná.....	823,785.00	.....	.....	601.12	6,720.14	831,106.26
Barcelona.....	17,400.00	63.80	.....	.....	315.24	17,779.04
Juan Griego.....	271,135.00	104.58	.....	6,706.62	492.39	278,438.59
Porlamar.....	162,880.00	.....	.....	4,322.64	12,816.12	181,018.76
Caripano.....	.....	12.00	.....	.....	.....	12.00
Coro.....	100,645.00	.....	66.70	1,575.52	.....	102,287.22
Maracaibo.....	298,280.00	1,568.00	110.00	5,189.18	3,666.02	303,813.28
Ciudad Bolívar.....	.....	150.80	.....	.....	.....	860.80
Total.....	1,708,460.00	4,101.99	176.70	24,377.97	25,009.91	1,762,126.57

α United States currency.

Salt revenue from 1900 to 1903.—The following table shows the revenue derived from salt mines in Venezuela from 1900 to 1903:

Year.	Net revenue.	Year.	Net revenue.
1900.....	α \$215,482	1902.....	α \$529,122
1901.....	5,656,515	1903.....	295,730

α U. S. currency.

Revenue itemized, from 1895 to 1898.—The following table shows the amounts contributed by the different sources of revenue from 1895 to 1898, according to official data:

Description.	1894-95.	1895-96.	1896-97.	1897-98.
	<i>Bolivars.</i>	<i>Bolivars.</i>	<i>Bolivars.</i>	<i>Bolivars.</i>
Import duties.....	32,337,691	37,259,167	35,068,329	22,599,418
Storage.....	70,106	91,535	80,029	39,460
Interest.....	98,682	141,406	125,930	70,725
Fines.....	36,229	34,923	33,474	27,264
Transit dues.....	7,874,923	8,429,009	7,712,985	6,507,854
Duty on tobacco.....	1,142,668	1,307,697	1,161,038	831,708
Stamped paper.....	147,485	141,046	136,196	106,952
Telegraphs.....	180,514	196,612	155,017	102,377
Telephones.....	6,486	3,990	5,449	5,637
Waste lands.....	28,303	30,001	97,333	20,682
School fines.....	1,546	.....	2,270	.....
Consular fees.....	460,623	389,788	411,462	177,786
Registry.....	90,635	97,145	97,603	67,592
Product of salt deposits.....	989,991	1,169,871	1,039,629	844,249
Salt tax, additional.....	.....	.....	.....	132,270
Income of educational institutions.....	504,098	540,806	543,881	533,098
Territory revenue.....	26,091	10,400	10,400	10,400
Mining tax.....	46,588	16,099	23,622	10,284
Postage stamps.....	1,058,093	1,078,184	1,110,777	862,468
Patents.....	3,850	4,500	6,010	7,150
Puerto Cabello wharf dues.....	298,314	875,964	841,989	206,216
Profit and loss.....	3,066,350	.....	.....	.....
Interest, commission, and discount.....	157,010	.....	.....	.....
Caracas waterworks.....	.....	138,869	147,066	317,455
Sundries.....	17,048	2,924	3,160	.....
Total.....	α 48,643,211	51,459,947	48,313,539	33,429,825

α Five bolivars taken as equal to the United States dollar.

Expenditure, by departments, from 1895 to 1903.—The expenditure for which each department of state was responsible, from 1895 to 1903, is shown in the following table, compiled from Venezuelan official data.

Department.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.
	<i>Bolivars.</i>	<i>Bolivars.</i>	<i>Bolivars.</i>	<i>Bolivars.</i>
Interior	11,829,310	14,422,114	13,386,069	11,272,264
Foreign affairs	859,969	2,361,700	2,292,745	1,463,688
Fomento	2,297,162	8,049,179	2,878,191	1,607,778
Public instruction	3,428,444	8,372,742	3,499,987	2,841,437
Finance	15,581,680	27,569,463	67,432,805	4,320,565
Public credit .....	.....	.....	.....	12,355,283
Public works	2,123,176	5,548,242	6,788,772	8,483,786
War and marine	6,821,784	9,636,337	7,631,272	7,715,697
Agriculture, industry, and commerce .....	.....	.....	.....	31,354
Posts and telegraphs .....	.....	.....	.....	450,649
Total	a 48,891,325	65,959,787	108,904,781	45,542,524

Department.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.
	<i>Bolivars.</i>	<i>Bolivars.</i>	<i>Bolivars.</i>	<i>Bolivars.</i>	<i>Bolivars.</i>
Interior	14,028,898.59	14,327,018.29	13,881,213.73	4,327,425.00	1,628,919.48
Foreign affairs	1,590,747.60	1,160,933.66	2,447,193.95	469,716.16	2,082,302.91
Fomento .....	.....	.....	2,361,073.04	2,506,221.11	1,592,625.30
Public instruction	2,511,628.82	1,006,610.59	2,109,462.10	2,046,205.48	703,825.07
Finance	2,834,866.67	2,204,065.16	3,042,651.74	3,342,657.40	2,410,480.13
Public credit	2,679,286.89	.....	.....	.....	.....
Public works	1,260,009.72	689,709.65	2,273,018.40	415,475.63	305,783.14
War and marine	5,044,501.53	2,857,192.57	8,391,714.39	16,856,286.86	13,070,021.29
Agriculture, industry, and commerce	82,248.04	541,987.50	.....	.....	.....
Posts and telegraphs	1,932,808.26	465,313.39	.....	.....	.....
Extraordinary service	3,686,506.19	1,030,307.86	3,478,077.95	2,964,796.17	1,743,236.04
Total	35,651,502.31	24,263,188.67	37,984,406.30	32,421,783.71	423,536,673.36

a Five bolivars taken as equal to the U. S. dollar.

Aggregate total of customs revenue from 1894 to 1903.—The following table shows the revenue collected from different sources and the budgets during the decade of 1894–1903:

Year.	Custom-house revenue.	General revenue.	Total revenue.	Budgets.
1894.....	a \$7,524,917	a \$10,284,373	a \$31,781,834	a \$7,424,000
1895.....	6,508,541	9,731,859	26,790,400	6,836,000
1896.....	7,505,406	10,291,989	31,634,731	8,060,000
1897.....	7,061,552	9,662,507	32,061,658	20,780,956
1898.....	4,539,332	6,685,965	17,654,009	9,108,504
1899.....	5,468,978	7,526,789	13,638,181	7,528,789
1900.....	3,330,171	7,889,744	11,727,294	7,729,292
1901.....	5,968,177	8,989,062	15,447,642	8,674,876
1902.....	3,990,952	6,330,158	12,990,912	5,208,756
1903.....	2,885,706	6,238,948	11,606,289	6,865,894

a U. S. currency, taking five bolivars as equivalent to the U. S. dollar.

La Guaira customs revenue, expenditure, and net returns, 1894 to 1903.—The following table, compiled from official data, shows the custom-house receipts, expenditure, and net returns of La Guaira from 1894 to 1903:

Year.	Custom-houses.	Gross returns.	Expenditure.	Net returns.	Per cent of expenditure.
1894.....	Maritime.....	a \$3,389,330	a \$77,821	a \$3,311,559	2.09
	Inland.....	596,615	2,716	593,899	.45
1895.....	Maritime.....	2,876,392	122,505	2,753,887	4.26
	Inland.....	538,671	2,730	535,941	.50
1896.....	Maritime.....	3,409,289	197,048	3,212,241	5.77
	Inland.....	596,009	2,715	593,294	.45
1897.....	Maritime.....	3,489,719	888,118	3,106,601	10.98
	Inland.....	548,087	2,715	545,372	.49
1898.....	Maritime.....	2,539,119	263,949	2,275,170	10.00
	Inland.....	505,300	2,221	503,079	.43
1901.....	Maritime.....	1,712,766	.....	.....	.....
1902.....	do.....	1,729,382	.....	.....	.....
1903.....	do.....	2,961,938	.....	.....	.....

a U. S. currency.

Puerto Cabello customs revenue, expenditure, and net returns from 1894 to 1903.—The following table shows the custom-house receipts, expenditure, and net returns of Puerto Cabello from 1894 to 1903, compiled from official data:

Year.	Custom-houses.	Gross returns.	Expenditure.	Net returns.	Per cent of expenditure.
1894.....	Maritime.....	a \$2,196,415	a \$62,130	a \$2,134,285	2.88
	Inland.....	455,107	2,805	452,302	.61
1895.....	Maritime.....	1,775,084	118,990	1,656,044	6.70
	Inland.....	889,224	2,725	886,499	.70
1896.....	Maritime.....	1,936,389	83,111	1,853,278	4.29
	Inland.....	871,892	2,719	869,173	.78
1897.....	Maritime.....	1,751,829	218,827	1,533,002	12.50
	Inland.....	817,228	2,745	814,483	.86
1898.....	Maritime.....	708,185	62,020	646,165	8.00
	Inland.....	208,122	2,450	205,672	1.17
1903.....	Maritime.....	1,180,000			

a U. S. currency.

EXTRAORDINARY WAR TAX (FEBRUARY TO JULY, 1903).

From the 17th of February, 1903, the date on which the extraordinary war tax of 30 per cent import duty on merchandise entered at the various custom-houses of the Republic of Venezuela was imposed, to July 31, 1903, the receipts from this tax have been as follows:

Custom-house.	Imports and exports.	Custom-house.	Imports and exports.
<i>February 19 to March 18.</i>		<i>May 16 to June 15—Continued.</i>	
	<i>Bolivars.</i>		<i>Bolivars.</i>
La Guaira.....	429,406.06	Maracaibo.....	284,897.47
Puerto Cabello.....	136,620.17	Caripano.....	43,243.82
Maracaibo.....	246,659.00	La Vela.....	4,244.57
La Vela.....	19,091.58	Guanta.....	2,350.96
		Juan Griego.....	194.90
<i>March 18 to April 15.</i>		San Antonio del Táchira.....	641.00
La Guaira.....	387,218.05	<i>June 15 to July 15.</i>	
Puerto Cabello.....	158,989.85	La Guaira.....	396,256.80
Maracaibo.....	192,431.77	Puerto Cabello.....	169,739.01
La Vela.....	5,009.58	Maracaibo.....	298,154.32
Juan Griego.....	625.51	Caripano.....	28,266.70
Puerto Sucre.....	2,540.24	Guanta.....	8,854.94
		Juan Griego.....	860.82
<i>April 16 to May 15.</i>		Puerto Sucre.....	660.34
La Guaira.....	428,770.25	San Antonio del Táchira.....	669.62
Puerto Cabello.....	112,609.20	<i>July 15 to July 31.</i>	
Maracaibo.....	198,679.98	La Guaira.....	168,355.45
Caripano.....	115,682.64	Puerto Cabello.....	92,152.92
La Vela.....	10,648.71	Maracaibo.....	127,887.76
Juan Griego.....	512.96	Caripano.....	16,161.77
Puerto Sucre.....	1,691.16	Porlamar.....	243.52
San Antonio del Táchira.....	225.00	San Antonio del Táchira.....	43.64
<i>May 16 to June 15.</i>		Total.....	a4,744,008.84
La Guaira.....	490,571.80		
Puerto Cabello.....	166,139.64		

a Five bolivars taken as equal to the U. S. dollar.

MARACAIBO CUSTOMS RECEIPTS, 1898.

From July 1 to December 31, 1898, the receipts were as follows: Transit duties on 12,332,746 kilos of coffee, 616,637.30 bolivars; untanned skins, 261,560.74 kilos, 13,078.04 bolivars; cacao, 42,537

kilos, 2,126.85 bolivars. The import duties on foreign merchandise, 12½ per cent, which is the tax of the maritime custom-house on 1,367,747.28 bolivars, yielded 170,968.41 bolivars, this exclusive of the additional tax on cut tobacco for cigarettes and the simple duty (only 4 céntimos per kilo) on sea salt, on 644,318 kilos taken from the deposits of Salina Rica, Oribor, and Sabaneta, which yielded 25,772.72 bolivars.

The figures mentioned under the first head, representing the national production, are not the maximum of the exports from the port of Maracaibo.

The value of the exports, after the payment of the respective tax, reached the sum of 9,093,843 bolivars during the time mentioned.

The following articles have been exported free of duty, a kilo being equal to 2.2046 pounds, and a bolivar worth 19.3 cents in United States currency:

	Quantity.	Value.		Quantity.	Value.
	<i>Kilos.</i>	<i>Bolivars.</i>		<i>Kilos.</i>	<i>Bolivars.</i>
Borwood.....	759,247	24,798	Fish bladders.....	20,921	39,179
Cedarwood.....	268,016	15,450	Galvanized iron.....	1,639	1,859
Ebony.....	498,182	16,458	Copper.....	1,689	1,412
Lignum-vitæ.....	26,760	774	Zinc.....	508	400
Fustic.....	291,882	24,950	Sprouts.....	2,464	1,167
Dividivi.....	500,247	48,190	Crane plumes.....	16	9,250
Cinchona bark.....	1,763	886	Corn.....	68,500	5,461
Asphalt.....	9,086	451	Panela.....	248,595	52,056
Rubber.....	120	800	Bananas.....	28,070	2,773
Lamb's wool.....	2,170	1,705	Miscellaneous.....	5,316	6,812
Copaiba.....	16,023	57,484	Brown sugar.....	1,472	320

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES OF MARACAIBO, LAST HALF OF 1902.

	Bolivars.
Customs receipts, July to December, 1902.....	1,847,850.60
Fines, July to December, 1902.....	2,074.86
Interest, July to December, 1902.....	501.23
Storage, July to November, 1902.....	54.30
Bills collectible, July and August, 1902.....	3,208.83
Tax on mines, September to December, 1902.....	1,315.50
Parcels post, July to December, 1902.....	3,192.19
Sealed paper, July to December, 1902.....	4,779.90
Tax on tobacco in December.....	14.00
Transit taxes on foreign merchandise, July to December, 1902.....	463,102.06
Transit taxes on domestic products, July to December, 1902.....	39,074.95
Transit taxes on salt, July to December, 1902.....	61,970.00
Total.....	2,427,138.42
	(\$485,427.68)

The receipts, by months, were:

	Bolivars.
July.....	307,201.94
August.....	341,500.94
September.....	212,135.98
October.....	580,036.48
November.....	364,995.81
December.....	621,267.27
	2,427,138.42

The expenditures were as follows:

	Bolivars.	
Transportation of funds.....	877,053.84	
Public credit, public works, public instruction, State treasury, and fomento	550,084.58	Bolivars.
		(2,427,138.42
		485,427.68

CUSTOMS RECEIPTS AT CARÚPANO, LAST HALF OF 1901.

The receipts of the custom-house at Carúpano for the six months from July to December, 1901, inclusive, amounted to 535,445.24 bolivars (\$107,089.05), collected from the following sources:

	Bolivars.
Imports	344,562.71
Parcels post.....	1,715.05
Fines.....	1,592.10
Auction sales	2,349.60
Interest	127.04
Stamped paper.....	2,470.05
Tax on mines	3,117.74
	355,934.29
Merchandise for the Azufrales Mining Company and the municipal council	172,007.60
	527,941.89
Duties on exports	7,503.35
	535,445.24

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE ITEMIZED, 1901.

The following tables show the revenue and expenditure for 1901. The figures given are taken from the finance minister's report.

Revenue, 1901.

	Bolivars.
Customs receipts	24,267,778.04
Transit tax	7,309,433.72
Tax on cattle	405,334.00
Profit on silver coinage.....	1,950,073.17
Sundry receipts	3,831,300.24
	37,763,919.17
Cash balance on deposit December 31, 1900.....	4,000,000.00
Total.....	41,763,919.17

Expenditure, 1901.

Budgetary expenditure, salaries, fortresses, etc.....	20,783,449.29
Military expenditure and war materials.....	8,957,282.74
Naval expenditure and war materials.....	1,363,837.39
Clothing of troops.....	667,159.56
Service of Puerto Cabello bonds.....	153,049.54
Revenue of States	3,219,543.34
Cost of silver coinage.....	2,049,926.83

	Bolivars.
Service of debts.....	2, 975, 634. 31
Credits due to sundry firms, etc	1, 087, 305. 71
Paid to Banco de Venezuela on "Excess account"	1, 650, 000. 00
Paid on account of war loan	246, 500. 00
Expenses of boundary commissions, etc	595, 400. 00
Public works, etc	286, 300. 00
Installation and repairs of telegraph lines.....	130, 693. 81
Sundries	205, 793. 10
Total.....	44, 371, 875. 56

SUMMARY.

	Bolivars.	U. S. currency.
Revenue.....	41, 763, 919. 17	(\$8, 352, 783. 83)
Expenditure	44, 371, 875. 56	(\$8, 874, 375. 11)
Deficit.....	2, 607, 956. 39	(\$521, 591. 27)

The detailed statement given of the amounts expended on the "Service of Debts" is as follows:

Railway debt (half of coupon, January to August, inclusive, cost of exchange, etc.).....	Bolivars.	1, 050, 783. 00
External debt (half of coupon, December, 1900, to June, 1901)	Bolivars.	622, 767. 53
Balance of August, 1899, coupon	115, 913. 08	
		<hr/> 738, 680. 61
Foreign claims		336, 503. 29
American legation, Hancox, and other claims		143, 147. 85
Internal 6 per cent debt.....		531, 163. 88
Internal debt, 1 per cent per month		59, 442. 60
Total.....		2, 859, 721. 23

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE ITEMIZED, 1902.

The finance minister's report contains, as regards the revenue for 1902, a statement of the receipts and expenditure under the various heads during each month of the year. This has been summarized in the following tables:

Revenue, 1902.

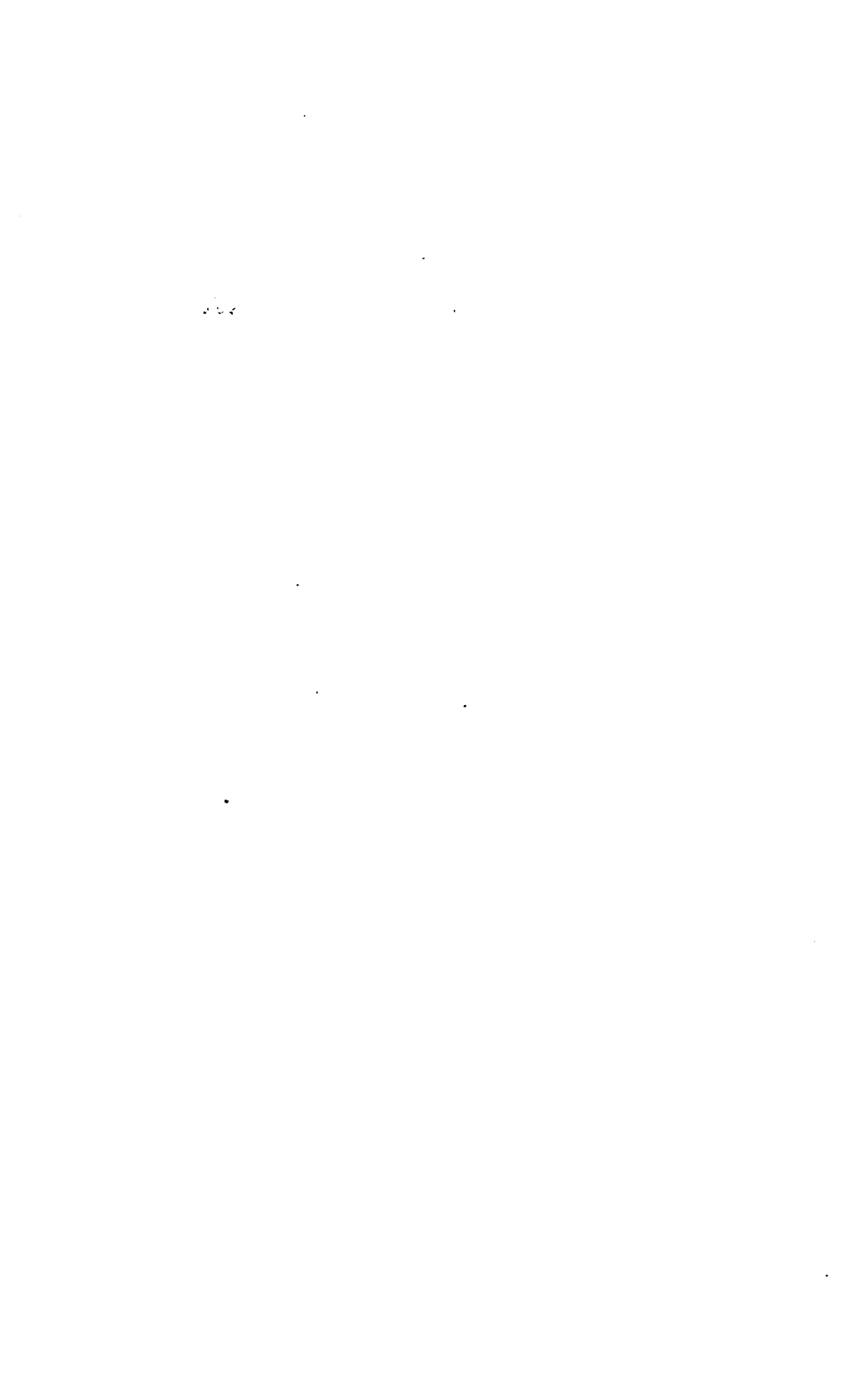
	Bolivars.
Customs receipts	14, 753, 591. 20
Transit tax	4, 040, 738. 30
Silver coinage.....	2, 000, 000. 00
Transfers from the service of the salt-bonds account.....	2, 665, 126. 74
Transfer from the Puerto Cabello wharf account.....	93, 187. 27
Sundry receipts	1, 409, 709. 99
Total.....	24, 962, 353. 50

Expenditure, 1902.

Budgetary expenditure, salaries, fortresses.....	9, 958, 374. 82
Military expenditure, rations, war materials, etc	11, 329, 954. 59
Revenue of the States	1, 311, 177. 50
Cost of silver coinage.....	911, 065. 34



CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF CARACAS.
(Courtesy of the Venezuelan Government.)



	Bolivars.
Transfer to the Puerto Cabello wharf account	50, 249. 85
Paid to Banco de Venezuela to liquidate the "Excess account"	730, 823. 79
Naval expenditure	1, 712, 301. 49
	<hr/> 26, 043, 977. 38

SUMMARY.

	Bolivars.	U. S. currency.
Revenue	24, 962, 353. 50	(\$4, 992, 470. 70)
Expenditure	28, 043, 977. 38	(\$5, 208, 795. 47)
Deficit	1, 081, 623. 88	(\$216, 324. 77)

The customs revenue in 1902 showed a falling off of more than 9,500,000 bolivars as compared with 1901. In view of this serious decrease the Government had been obliged to suspend the service of the salt bonds and to transfer the amounts specially assigned for this purpose to the general revenue account.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE ITEMIZED, 1903.

The message sent by the President of Venezuela to Congress on February 20, 1904, contains a report on the finances of the country of which the following is a summary:

Revenue, 1903.

	Bolivars.
Customs receipts	21, 102, 827. 53
Transit tax	5, 731, 292. 66
Transfer of the salt-bonds account	1, 318, 615. 08
Transfer of the 1903 loan account	341, 266. 56
Silver coinage	3, 000, 000. 00
Sundry receipts	3, 000, 410. 25
	<hr/> 34, 494, 412. 08

Expenditure, 1903.

Budgetary expenditure	10, 316, 619. 02
Military expenditure	10, 962, 628. 63
Revenue of the States	1, 435, 272. 16
Coinage expense	1, 386, 752. 06
Transfer of several accounts	259, 153. 95
Public works	1, 100, 070. 77
Public instruction	705, 917. 99
Paid to Messrs. H. L. Boulton (Limited) on account of the 30 per cent on the La Guaira and Puerto Cabello receipt according to the Wash- ington protocols	4, 183, 804. 90
Paid to the Banco de Venezuela	3, 979, 201. 28
Cash balance in the Treasury December 31, 1903	164, 991. 32
	<hr/> 34, 494, 412. 08

SUMMARY.

	Bolivars.	U. S. currency.
Revenue	34, 494, 412. 08	(\$6, 898, 882. 41)
Expenditures	34, 329, 420. 76	(\$6, 865, 884. 15)
Surplus	164, 991. 32	(\$32, 998. 28)

There was a deposit of stamps in the Bank of Venezuela amounting to 19,595,232.55 bolivars, and the salt bonds amounted to 4,892,765 bolivars.

PUBLIC DEBT.^a

HISTORY OF THE INTERNAL DEBT OF VENEZUELA.

The origin of the internal debt of Venezuela is as follows:

1826.—Different kinds of internal debt being in existence, the Colombian Congress decreed, on May 22, 1826, the establishment of the public credit. Article I of said decree acknowledged as public debt: (1) The sum of \$1,181,467.47 reals liquidated on said date and that which might be adjusted by the respective committee of Bogotá; (2) that of \$814,710 due on the loan of July 25, 1823, raised to pay the Apure army; (3) the balance due on the \$5,458,600 voted for army pensions; (4) the balance due on the half salaries retained by decree of September 14, 1819; (5) one-third retained on salaries by law of October 8, 1821; (6) the capital of the annuities on account of contributions during war periods, granted by the republican Government and to be paid by the treasuries of Nueva Granada and Venezuela; and (7) the amount acknowledged and guaranteed by the act of independence of the Isthmus of Panamá after it had been adjusted by the above-mentioned committee of Bogotá.

The same law provides that the debts mentioned in Nos. 1 and 2 were to continue bearing 5 per cent annual interest, and the other five were to bear 3 per cent per annum from July 1, 1826.

FLOATING DEBT.

1827-28.—On June 13, 1827, the Executive Power informed Congress that several debts were in default, and Congress decreed, on August 31, 1827, to appropriate one-seventh of the customs receipts, after deducting the one-eighth applied to the payment of foreign debt interests, (1) to pay foreign citizens or subjects; (2) to pay drafts drawn on the Government on account of the 1824 loan; (3) to pay the \$200,000 decreed on July 30, 1821; (4) to pay the loans which since said date the Executive Power might have demanded, and (5) to pay the third of the salaries retained by the executive.

The Government of Colombia, to avoid inconvenience, agreed, on December 23, 1828, to admit bonds of the floating debt in payment of one-eighth of the import duties and of the totality of the export duties.

OLD CONSOLIDATED.

1830-1837.—When Venezuela became an independent self-governing nation the Venezuelan custom-houses held a great quantity of the floating debt which continued to be paid in according to article 22 of the law of October 14, 1830, and article 20 of that of May 22, 1834. As said payment decreased the receipts, Congress decreed on May 5, 1837,

^a Data from official publications of Venezuela.

that the floating debt should be funded and its amount converted at par into the 5 per cent consolidated debt, \$50,000 per annum being appropriated from the customs receipts to pay the interest and redeem the capital by quarterly tenders. After Venezuela separated from Colombia the floating debt funded in the custom-houses amounted to \$1,311,632, and the balance, which was converted into consolidated debt, to \$491,018.28. Provision was made by the aforesaid law for the capital and interest of the consolidated and nonconsolidated debts of Colombia.

1838.—On April 26, 1838, it was provided that the consolidated debt should be funded.

1839.—On May 16, 1839, the final division of the debt of Colombia was effected, and according to the convention of December 23, 1834, Venezuela became responsible for 28½ units, amounting to \$7,217,-915.12, of which the following table gives the detail:

Denomination of debts.	Amounts.
Nonconsolidated 3 per cent	\$2,105,789.03
Consolidated 3 per cent	675,251.26
Nonconsolidated 5 per cent	285,997.56
Consolidated 5 per cent	1,101,046.04
Floating debt assigned	66,386.75
Treasury, without interest	764,963.59
Liquidation of interest	80,274.38
Total	7,217,915.12

MODERN CONSOLIDATED.

1840.—On April 15, 1840, the law of 1838 was amended and the part for which Venezuela was responsible, regarding its own consolidated debt, was fixed at \$500,000 and stockholders of Colombian consolidated and nonconsolidated 3 and 5 per cent debts, were declared entitled thereto since the dates established by the law of May 22, 1826.

1841.—Congress did not consider this means ample enough for the extinction of the interior debt of Colombian origin and increased the assignation to \$180,000 and extended until June 30, 1842, the term for consolidating the debt at 33½ per cent, and those unwilling to do so could retain their securities and rights impaired. The amount of \$2,231,000 was converted into \$743,649 of the consolidated debt and the balance (\$1,603,000) was not presented for conversion.

1843.—Congress authorized the Executive Power on April 27, 1843, to continue the issue of consolidated-debt bonds until all the nonconsolidated were converted.

1845.—On April 21, 1845, the consolidated debt was increased \$28,000 and the sinking fund \$2,850, which is equal to 10 per cent of the increase.

SPANISH DEBT.

The treaty of March 30, 1845, concluded between Venezuela and Spain, which was ratified by decree of May 27, 1845, acknowledged as

nonconsolidated debt that which was recorded in the treasury until July 5, 1811, and the value of the property belonging to Spanish subjects that was confiscated by the Government of the Republic, being convertible into consolidated debt according to the provisions of law of May 8 and regulating decrees of April 15, 1840, and April 27, 1843.

Internal debt of Venezuela, 1838 to 1872.—The following table, compiled from the official report of statistics of Venezuela for 1873, shows the amount of internal debt in each of the years comprised from 1838 to 1872:

Year.	Internal debt.	Year.	Internal debt.
1838.....	^a \$7,217,915.12	1856.....	^a \$12,043,865.17
1840.....	4,553,854.89	1859.....	20,105,746.85
1842.....	2,809,978.79	1862.....	18,587,648.96
1844.....	2,231,151.44	1863.....	15,660,172.63
1846.....	1,884,769.13	1869.....	23,555,015.38
1850.....	1,900,450.19	1872.....	12,270,796.92
1854.....	4,309,198.21		

^a U. S. Currency.

Internal debt of Venezuela from 1885 to 1893.—The following table compiled from the Venezuelan Yearbook for 1896, shows the amount of the internal debt which was in circulation in each of the years comprised from 1885 to 1893:

Year.	5 per cent consolidated internal debt.	Year.	5 per cent consolidated internal debt.
1885.....	^a \$7,933,393	1890.....	^a \$7,626,013
1886.....	7,857,326	1891.....	7,595,227
1887.....	7,788,972	1892.....	7,646,542
1888.....	7,722,988	1893.....	7,847,374
1889.....	7,684,316		

^a U. S. currency.

Internal debt of Venezuela from 1894 to 1903.—The following table, compiled from the official reports of the Treasury Department (Ministerio de Hacienda y Crédito Público) of Venezuela shows the amount of internal debt in circulation during each of the years comprised from 1894 to 1903:

Year.	5 per cent consolidated internal debt.	Revolution debt.	Floating debt.	6 per cent internal debt.	6 per cent consolidated internal debt.	Caracas water-works special debt.	1 per cent bonds.
1894.....	^a \$7,878,404	^a \$1,202,247	^a \$28,025	^a \$3,150,046	^a \$2,854,133		^a \$495,612
1895.....	7,983,704	861,331	7,859				396,092
1896.....	2,558,861	376,556	5,413	223,658	732,698	^a \$2,158,439	722,698
1897.....	7,853	125,540	1,617	4,044	12,674,588	2,129,818	
1898.....	2,418	27,007	1,340	2,873	12,471,728	2,113,033	
1900.....	2,418	23,127	1,341	2,768	12,315,318	2,035,089	
1901.....	2,223	23,127	1,341	2,618	11,961,734	2,035,089	
1902.....	2,223	23,127	1,341	2,489	11,961,734	2,035,089	
1903.....	^b 2,442	23,127	1,341	^b 6,591	^b 15,836,158	^b 2,726,956	(^c)

^a U. S. currency.

^b Capital and arrears of interest.

^c \$1,122,275 are not included in this column.

HISTORY OF THE EXTERNAL DEBT OF VENEZUELA. ^a

1820.—At the time when its first foreign obligations were contracted Venezuela, with Ecuador, formed part of Colombia. In this year the Vice-President, Señor Zea, came to London and issued transferable debentures to the creditors of the Republic, bearing 8 per cent interest if paid in England and 10 per cent if paid in Colombia. This increased the debt to the amount of £547,783, for which debentures were issued.

1822.—On March 13, 1822, Señor Zea contracted with Messrs. Herring, Graham & Powles for the emission of a loan of £2,000,000 at 80 per cent, bearing 6 per cent interest. The object of the loan was to pay off the 1820 debentures, and to obtain funds for the prosecution of the war of independence. It was agreed that sufficient of the proceeds should be left with the contractor for the payment of the first half-yearly coupons. Debentures and accumulated interest to the amount of £777,220 were paid off. The Colombian Congress disapproved, by decree of July 7, 1823, Señor Zea's action, because he had concluded his transactions in a definite manner without authority to do so. Later (in 1826) Congress acknowledged as public debt the £2,000,000 loan.

1823.—On July 7, 1823, Congress authorized the Executive to raise a loan of 30,000,000 hard dollars, giving the revenue in general, and especially tobacco, as guaranty.

1824.—On May 15, 1824, Messrs. B. A. Goldsmith & Co., of Hamburg, engaged to place a loan of £4,750,000 issued at 85 per cent, bearing 6 per cent interest. Congress approved and ratified this loan by decree of May 4, 1825. The total indebtedness in 1824 was £6,750,000.

1825.—On March 8, 1825, the executive power issued a decree providing to reserve in the custom-houses one-fourth of the net receipts to meet the requirements of the service of the debt.

1826.—The house of Goldsmith & Co. was declared bankrupt on February 15, and the £350,000 deposited there to meet the payment of the dividends of the first loan were involved in the bankruptcy. Minister Hurtado appealed to the Mexican minister in London, Señor Rocafuerte, who was a Colombian, and received £63,000 from him without interest, on May 6, 1826. Of this sum £61,500 were applied to pay the fourth dividend of the £2,000,000 loan. Mexico owed Colombia the expense incurred in 1824 and 1825 in outfitting a fleet to capture the San Juan de Ulloa fort. She also owed another debt which belongs mostly to Venezuela, arising out of a tax levied on each fanega (110 pounds) of cacao from Maracaibo and Guayaquil imported to Nueva España and paid at Vera Cruz. This tax was first levied in

^a Data from official publications of Venezuela.

September, 1793, and ceased in March, 1815, by virtue of the royal ordinance issued in 1814 by the Spanish Government.

1831.—The Republic of Colombia was divided into three separate Republics, which were styled respectively New Granada, Ecuador, and Venezuela.

DIVISION OF THE DEBT.

1834.—A convention was drawn up on December 23, 1834, by which the debt of the former Republic of Colombia was apportioned in the following manner among the three Republics:

Republic.	Proportion of debt assigned.	Amount of principal assigned.	Amount of interest assigned.	Total.
	<i>Per cent.</i>			
New Granada.....	50	a £8,312,975	a £1,590,228	a £4,908,208
Ecuador.....	21½	1,424,579	683,798	2,108,377
Venezuela.....	28½	1,888,396	906,430	2,794,826
Total.....	100	6,625,950	3,180,456	9,806,406

a \$6 taken as equal to the £.

1834.—By the convention of 1834 Venezuela became responsible for 28½ per cent of the original Colombian debt, or £1,888,396, upon which the arrears of interest amounted to £906,430; total, £2,794,826.

1840.—According to decree of September 16, 1840, a settlement was made on the following terms:

The above principal of the debt to be converted at par into "active" bonds which were to bear interest at the rate of 2 per cent for the first seven years, increasing one-fourth of 1 per cent annually, until the maximum rate of 6 per cent should be attained.

"Deferred" bonds to be issued in satisfaction of the arrears of interest to an amount equal to the original capital. These bonds were to carry interest from October 1, 1852, at 1 per cent for the first year, and to increase one-fourth of 1 per cent annually up to a maximum of 5 per cent, when a sinking fund of one-fourth of 1 per cent should also come into operation.

£1,888,395 "active" and £1,888,395 "deferred" bonds were issued under the terms of this arrangement. On October 1, 1840, the first dividend (\$118,024.74) was paid. "Active" bonds to the amount of £150,000 were subsequently issued in settlement of the "Macintosh claim," bringing the total issue of these bonds to £2,007,159.

1847.—Up to June 30, 1847, the interest on the external debt was punctually paid. Default took place in September because the funds of the Government had been involved in the bankruptcy, and the dividend of October could not be paid. The indebtedness of Venezuela was at the time \$2,552,463.

1848.—On March 15, 1848, Congress authorized the Executive to convert into 4 per cent per annum the interest of the active debt.

1851.—An arrangement was agreed to by the bondholders, but it was not ratified by Congress, although the half-yearly coupon (£19,500), due October 1, 1851, was paid.

1856.—Venezuela received, as the proportion of the debt due from Peru to the old Colombian Republic, a sum of \$1,140,000 in $4\frac{1}{4}$ per cent Peruvian bonds.

1859.—On March 1, 1859, the following arrangement was concluded:

For the outstanding capital of the old "active" bonds and for the arrears of interest up to December 31, 1858, on both "active" and "deferred" bonds new bonds were to be issued bearing $2\frac{1}{4}$ per cent interest during the year 1859 and 3 per cent from January 1, 1860. Against the principal of the old "deferred" bonds other new bonds were to be issued bearing 1 per cent interest from January 1, 1859, to January 1, 1860, and thenceforth $1\frac{1}{4}$ per cent.

Holders of deferred bonds had, at the time of the conversion, the option of exchanging £100 bonds into £50 of the new 3 per cent bonds. After long discussion the bondholders agreed to receive 3 per cent bonds for arrears from 1840 to 1847 with a 2 per cent payment in cash on September, 1860.

1860.—This agreement was approved on September 24, 1860, and according to the liquidation effected, the active debt amounted to \$18,280,112.50, and the deferred debt to \$8,985,275, giving an aggregate of \$27,265,387.50.

1862.—On July 1, 1862, an agreement was signed in London for the emission of a loan of £1,000,000, bearing 6 per cent interest per annum and 2 per cent sinking fund, secured upon 55 per cent of the import duties collected at La Guaira and Puerto Cabello. Said loan was issued at 63 per cent by Messrs. Baring Brothers & Co.

1864.—In February, 1864, the representative of Venezuela contracted with the General Credit and Finance Company of London for the issue of a loan of £1,500,000, bearing 6 per cent interest per annum and 2 per cent sinking fund, at 60 per cent of par, guaranteed by the export duties of La Guaira, Puerto Cabello, Maracaibo, and Ciudad Bolívar.

1872.—By a decree of November 30 it was provided that the customs receipts should be divided into 100 units, of which 60 were to be applied to the general budget and the remaining 40 as follows: 27 per cent (or 10.8) thereof to internal public credit, 27 per cent (or 10.8) to external public credit (to be retained by the treasury pending a new arrangement with the external bondholders), 33 per per cent (or 13.2) to internal development of the country, and 13 per cent (or 5.2) to foreign claims which have been duly admitted.

1876.—A convention was concluded under which an annual sum of £40,000 was to be remitted. Three shillings on the pound were paid on coupons of all three loans from October, 1876.

1880-81.—The loans of 1859, 1862, and 1864 were converted into a "new consolidated debt." This arrangement provided for an issue of £4,000,000 new bonds, of which £2,750,000 were to be applied to the conversion of the above loans and the necessary expenses. The balance of £1,250,000 was reserved for the unification of the then existing internal debt. The 6 per cent external loans of 1862 and 1864 and the coupon stock of 1862 were converted, with arrears, at 60 per cent, and the 3 per cent and $1\frac{1}{4}$ per cent bonds of 1859, respectively, at 30 and 15 per cent, also including arrears. Interest on the new bonds to be 3 per cent per annum until the unification of the external and internal debts was completed, after which it was to be raised to 4 per cent on the whole debt. Owing to difficulties which arose with the internal bondholders the unification of the debt was not carried into effect. The issue was therefore confined to £2,750,000 bonds, and the rate of interest was not increased to 4 per cent. Under a decree of December 10, 1880, the 27 per cent of the 40 units of the customs receipts (i. e., 10.8 of the total customs revenue) assigned to the foreign credit (see above decree of November 30, 1872) was directed to be integrally paid to the bondholders' agents. This assignment has been renewed by subsequent decrees.

1883 and 1888.—Proposals were made to effect the unification scheme in these years, but were not carried into execution for several reasons.

1889-1891.—The public debt of Venezuela was divided into four classes in 1889, viz, the domestic debt, the foreign debt, the debt by diplomatic treaties, and the bonds bearing 1 per cent monthly.

The domestic debt amounted, July 1, 1889, to the sum of \$7,402,892.49, which was reduced by cancellations in the fiscal year 1889-90 in the sum of \$48,349.53, leaving in circulation on July 1, 1890, the amount of \$7,354,542.96. The bonds of this debt were made to the bearer and drew 5 per cent annual interest, which was punctually paid in monthly quotas. The interest disbursed by the Government on account of this debt during the fiscal year 1889-90 amounted to the sum of \$369,072.58. The bonds were quoted at 47.72 per cent in the market during the year 1891.

The total amount of the foreign debt in circulation on July 1, 1889, was \$12,978,709.20, which sum was reduced by the purchase of bonds during the fiscal year 1889-90 to the amount of \$19,907.86, leaving the balance of \$12,958,801.34 outstanding on July 1, 1890. This debt bore interest at the rate of 3 per cent per annum, for the payment of which there is delivered to the agents of the council of bondholders at the beginning of each month the amount of \$34,216.63, or \$410,599.56 per annum. The excess, after the payment of interest, was deposited to the sinking fund. The bonds of this debt were quoted in the London market at 51 per cent.

The amount of diplomatic treaty debt actually in circulation was derived from the liquidation of amounts due to France and Spain and made by virtue of an executive resolution of August 5, 1887. There was in circulation on July 1, 1889, of this debt, the amount of \$866,397.50, afterwards increased by an emission of \$76,920 in favor of Spain, to the sum of \$943,317.15, of which \$114,401.77 has been since canceled, and left the amount of \$828,915.39 of this debt outstanding on July 1, 1890. This debt bore interest at the rate of 3 per cent per annum, payable semiannually at the respective legations, and the balance of sums paid by the Government for this purpose, after the interest is paid, is applied to the cancellation of the bonds through periodical sales before the board of public credit. To attend to the obligations of this debt \$83,170.81 taken from the 13 per cent of the 40 units of customs revenues is annually paid out from the public treasury. The bonds were quoted at 45 per cent on the market in 1891. The amount held by the council of bondholders and legations on June 30, 1890, for the balance of interest was \$9,229.48, and the amount in their hands on the same date to be applied to the cancellation of the bonds was \$93,519.44.

The condition of the debt bearing 1 per cent monthly interest is as follows: There were issued on June 30, 1889, bonds of the sixth emission to replace those of the fifth emission to the amount of \$189,159.33, with 10 per cent premium, \$18,915.93, and a further emission of bonds to the amount of \$565,549.93 for the satisfaction of claims, making a total of \$773,625.19, from which was deducted the amount of cancellations of \$126,363.42 effected in the fiscal year 1889-90, and of \$64,714.36 realized from July to December of 1890, leaving the net balance of \$582,547.41 of this debt in circulation on December 31, 1890. The interest on this debt was paid monthly at the Bank of Venezuela, in Caracas, and the cancellation of the bonds was made through bids of the Government at stated prices. These bonds were at times quoted above their par value.

A summary of the total debt of Venezuela in 1891 presents the following results:

Domestic debt (5 per cent consolidated)	\$7,595,227
Foreign debt (3 per cent external)	13,450,675
Diplomatic debt (13 per cent diplomatic)	1,000,238
One per cent monthly debt	647,261
Total	22,693,401

To discharge the obligations of this debt Venezuela had to appropriate less than 14½ per cent of her revenues, as appears from her fiscal receipts.

1892-93.—The Government, in consequence of an internal disturbance, temporarily suspended the service of the external debt. The

remittances were resumed in June, 1893. For the coupons Nos. 24 and 25, due February and August, 1893, certificates were issued redeemable at par by half-yearly drawings. The final amortization of these certificates took place in August, 1897.

1896.—Congress authorized the issue of a loan in Europe for 50,000,000 bolivars, the proceeds to be devoted to the liquidation of the railway guaranty in arrears, the redemption of the obligation to pay the same in the future, the acquisition of some of the railways if deemed desirable, and the completion of the Central Railway. The Disconto Gesellschaft, of Berlin, contracted for this loan, which was issued at 80 per cent. The bonds were to bear 5 per cent interest per annum and to be redeemed by a sinking fund of 1 per cent. Drawn bonds and coupons to be received at par in payment of customs duties. The loan was secured by a sufficient number of units of the national revenue to cover the annual service, amounting to 3,000,000 bolivars; and it was stipulated that no new loan might be contracted to which equal or greater rights were conceded without the amortization of this loan having previously been effected. Under a decree of May 16, 1896, 11.12 units of the customs revenue were assigned to the service of this loan. The same decree renewed the assignment in favor of the 1881 loan mentioned above.

A law was also passed for the conversion and consolidation of the various internal debts by the issue of 65,000,000 bolivars of bonds, bearing 6 per cent interest and 1 per cent sinking fund, interest to be paid monthly in Venezuela and in Europe.

1897.—The Government failed to remit the funds required for the payment of the coupon due February 15, 1898, on the external debt of 1881, and of that due June 30, 1898, on the 5 per cent loan of 1896.

1898.—The Government proposed to pay off the arrears on the debt in bonds of a 9 per cent loan, secured on the salt monopoly. This proposal was not proceeded with, so far as the external debt was concerned.

1899.—A law was passed for the payment of the arrears in bonds of a 3 per cent loan, with 2 per cent amortization, secured on the general revenues and certain special taxes. This proposal was declined by the bondholders' committee. In December the Disconto Gesellschaft paid 26 per cent on account of the June, 1898, coupon of the 1896 loan.

1900.—Five-sixths of the February, 1898, coupon of the 1881 loan was paid in March with funds received at intervals between July, 1897, and March, 1899. In December the Disconto Gesellschaft paid the balance of the June, 1898, coupon of the 1896 loan, and in the same month the Government resumed remittances at the rate of one-half of the full monthly installments.

1901.—The balance of the February and one-half of the August, 1898, coupons of the 1881 loan were paid in July. In December the

Disconto Gesellschaft paid 56 per cent of the December, 1898, coupon of the 1896 loan and a like percentage on the bonds drawn on December 31, 1898, the sinking fund having been in suspense since that date.

All remittances on the part of the Government ceased in August.

1902-3.—Demands having been made upon Venezuela at the close of the year 1902 for compensation for losses sustained by foreign subjects in consequence of a revolution, and no definite arrangement having been arrived at, the Governments of Great Britain, Germany, and Italy made a naval demonstration, which resulted in the blockade of the Venezuelan ports. On January 23, 1903, the representative of Venezuela at Washington informed the representatives of Great Britain, Germany, and Italy that if the blockade were raised, Venezuela would set aside for the payment of "all claims against Venezuela" 30 per cent of the customs receipts at La Guaira and Puerto Cabello.

The blockade was accordingly raised. Protocols were signed at Washington on February 13, 1903, by the representative of Venezuela and those of Great Britain, Germany, and Italy, providing for the settlement of all claims against Venezuela.^a

The Venezuelan Congress, on March 28, 1903, resolved to empower the Federal Executive to put the protocols into practice, with the proviso that none of their clauses should establish the least precedent in the political existence of the Republic.^b

The first obligation of said protocols consisted in paying a total compensation of \$501,204, of which \$344,753 was to go to Germany, \$28,676 to Great Britain, and \$27,775 to Italy. Venezuela duly complied with this obligation, and up to December 31, 1903, had handed to the agent at Caracas of the Bank of England the sum of \$836,761, which is equivalent to the 30 per cent of the receipts of the custom-houses of La Guaira and Puerto Cabello, to be distributed among the claimant nations.

The allies demanded that their claims should be paid before the claims of the peace powers. Venezuela's representative declared that "all claims against Venezuela" included also those of all the peace powers. It was agreed to submit the question to The Hague Court of Arbitration, and protocols were signed to that effect by all the powers which had claims against Venezuela.^c

^a See Appendix, pp. 585-591, for text of protocols.

^b See Appendix, pp. 591-592, for text of Venezuelan Congress resolution.

^c See Appendix, pp. 592-598, for text of Hague protocols.

List of protocols signed.—The list of protocols signed for the settlement of claims against Venezuela is given in the following table:

Name of claimant nation.	Date of signature.	Umpire to be selected by—
Great Britain	Feb. 13, 1903	The President of the United States.
Germany	Feb. 13, 1903	The President of the United States.
Italy	Feb. 13, 1903	The President of the United States.
United States	Feb. 17, 1903	The Queen of the Netherlands.
Mexico	Feb. 23, 1903	The King of Spain.
France	Feb. 27, 1903	The Queen of the Netherlands.
The Netherlands	Feb. 28, 1903	The President of the United States.
Belgium	Mar. 7, 1903	The Queen of the Netherlands.
Sweden and Norway	Mar. 10, 1903	The King of Spain.
Spain	Apr. 2, 1903	The President of Mexico.

Names of claimant nations.	Protocol.	Date of signature.
Venezuela and Italy	The Hague protocol	May 7, 1903
Venezuela and Great Britain	The Hague protocol	May 7, 1903
Venezuela and Germany	The Hague protocol	May 7, 1903

According to the terms of said protocols, mixed commissions met at Caracas on June 1, 1903, and gave awards on the claims submitted for adjustment.

Amounts claimed and awarded.—The following table gives the amounts claimed and the sums awarded. It will be noticed that there is a great difference between the sums awarded and those claimed, and in the former is included what Venezuela owed for postal service.

Claimant.	Sum claimed.	Sum awarded.	Submitted to umpire.
Great Britain		\$1,963,650	\$8,597,609 (8 claims).
Germany	\$1,475,337	418,381	
Italy		603,167	
Belgium	2,984,361	2,179,748	
France	3,578,822	533,507	
Mexico	598,876	451,510	
Netherlands	213,910	108,860	
Spain	1,061,525	394,963	
United States	15,723,081	459,457	
Sweden		34,143	
Total		7,147,386	

^a U. S. currency.

1904.—On February 22, 1904, The Hague Arbitration Court gave its award in the case of the powers against Venezuela. The finding of the court was that the three blockading powers, Great Britain, Germany, and Italy, had a right to preferential treatment over other claimant nations with regard to the allotment of the 30 per cent of the customs receipts of La Guaira and Puerto Cabello, assigned by Venezuela for the payment of her foreign creditors. Each party was ordered to pay its own costs and an equal share of the costs incurred by the court.^a

External debt of Venezuela from 1840 to 1872.—The following table, compiled from the official Report of Statistics of Venezuela for 1873, shows the amount of the foreign debt of Venezuela in each of the years comprised from 1840 to 1872:

^a See Appendix, pp. 598-602, for text of Hague award.

Year.	External debt.	Year.	External debt.
1840.....	α\$28,604,947.12	1859.....	α\$26,188,130.45
1842.....	21,569,400.37	1862.....	29,106,169.10
1844.....	20,962,212.87	1863.....	35,704,811.46
1846.....	20,962,212.87	1865.....	46,728,466.23
1850.....	21,820,009.29	1869.....	49,898,822.23
1854.....	23,592,856.08	1872.....	56,568,391.83
1856.....	25,851,169.23		

α One Venezolano taken as equal to the U. S. dollar.

External debt of Venezuela from 1885 to 1893.—The following table, compiled from the Venezuelan Yearbook for 1896, shows the amount of external debt which was in circulation in each of the years comprised from 1885 to 1893:

Year.	3 per cent external debt.	13 per cent diplomatic debt.	Year.	3 per cent external debt.	13 per cent diplomatic debt.
1885.....	α\$13,547,887	.....	1890.....	α\$13,477,692	α\$1,084,029
1886.....	13,537,282	.....	1891.....	13,450,675	1,000,238
1887.....	13,512,890	.....	1892.....	13,441,080	1,000,238
1888.....	13,510,517	\$1,014,545	1893.....	13,429,465	996,618
1889.....	13,498,377	901,069			

α U. S. currency.

Public debt of Venezuela from 1894 to 1903.—The following table shows the amount of the public debt in circulation during each of the ten years comprised from 1894 to 1903, the data having been compiled from the official reports issued by the treasury department (ministerio de hacienda y crédito público) of Venezuela:

[Five bolivars taken as equivalent to the United States dollar.]

Debt.	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.
INTERNAL.					
5 per cent consolidated internal debt.....	\$7,378,404	\$7,983,704	\$2,558,861	\$7,853	\$2,418
Revolution debt.....	1,292,247	861,331	376,566	155,540	27,007
Floating debt.....	28,025	7,869	5,413	1,617	1,340
6 per cent internal debt.....	3,150,046	.....	223,658	4,044	2,873
6 per cent consolidated internal debt.....	.....	2,854,133	732,698	12,674,588	12,471,728
Caracas waterworks special debt.....	.....	.....	2,158,439	2,129,518	2,113,083
1 per cent bonds.....	495,612	396,092	732,698	.....	.....
EXTERNAL.					
3 per cent external debt.....	13,429,465	13,383,357	13,362,340	13,338,060	13,322,913
13 per cent diplomatic debt.....	854,667	845,467	841,267	758,180	α 1,338,288
5 per cent Venezuelan debt, 1896.....	.....	.....	10,000,000	9,398,800	9,737,200
Total.....	27,128,466	26,331,943	38,724,673	33,958,500	39,016,800

α The redemption of the diplomatic debt is effected by tenders. The considerable increase shown is due to the fact of the Government having handed over to the French legation "bonds" of this debt to an amount of nearly 4,500,000 bolivars in settlement of the Fabiani claims. The total amount of the diplomatic debt outstanding Dec. 31, 1898, was distributed as follows:

Germany.....	\$1,400
Spain.....	410,963
France.....	925,925
Total.....	1,338,288

In 1903 the capital and arrears of interest of the diplomatic debt were distributed as follows:

France.....	\$1,410,600
Spain.....	658,452
Netherlands.....	200,000
Total.....	2,269,052

Debt.	1900.	1901. ^a	1902. ^b	1903.	How redeemed.
INTERNAL.					
5 per cent consolidated internal debt.	\$2,418	\$2,228	\$2,228	* \$2,442	By conversion into 6 per cent consolidated at 8 per cent.
Revolution debt.....	23,127	23,127	23,127	23,127	By conversion into 6 per cent consolidated at 15 per cent.
Floating debt	1,341	1,341	1,341	1,342	By conversion into 6 per cent consolidated at par.
6 per cent internal debt.	2,768	2,618	2,489	d 6,592	Do.
6 per cent consolidated internal debt.	12,815,318	11,961,734	11,961,734	* 15,836,156	By tender.
Caracas waterworks special debt.	2,085,089	2,085,089	2,085,089	* 2,726,956	Do.
1 per cent bonds				(c)	Do.
EXTERNAL.					
3 per cent external debt.	13,322,910	13,322,910	13,322,910	* 15,754,842	By purchase.
15 per cent diplomatic debt.	1,286,864	1,239,513	1,280,078	* 2,264,052	
5 per cent Venezuelan debt, 1898.	9,502,400	9,376,000	9,243,000	* 12,810,600	By drawings.
Dutch arrears of service.		* 1,862			
Balance of convertible loans.		9,318			
Total	38,491,185	37,975,685	47,822,070	d 48,925,701	

^a No data available for 1899. Figures for 1901 include capital and arrears of service.

^b Capital outstanding and estimated arrears of service to Dec. 31, 1902.

^c Includes capital and arrears of interest.

^d In circulation, \$672,119; arrears of service, \$460,156 on Dec. 31, 1903, are not included in the total indebtedness.

* Arrears of service.

PUBLIC DEBT IN 1901.

The following table, abridged from a statement contained in the report of the minister of finance, shows the official estimate of the outstanding capital of the public debt on December 31, 1901:

Capital outstanding.

Loans:	
External	* \$23,949,603
Internal.....	14,026,082
Total.....	37,975,685

The above statement does not include the 1 per cent bonds and the general arrears of service, the salt bonds, and the outstanding balance to the Bank of Venezuela, which form the total liabilities of Venezuela.

Sums paid for the service of the Venezuelan debts from January 1 to December 31, 1901.^b

SUMMARY.

For internal debt	* \$106,232
For 3 per cent external debt	147,736
For foreign claims	67,300
For 5 per cent Venezuelan debt (1896)	210,156
Total	531,424

^a Five bolívars have been taken as the equivalent to the United States dollar.

^b Report of Minister of Finance, 1902, p. 55.

PUBLIC DEBT IN 1902.

The statement of the public debt of Venezuela in 1902, is as follows:

INTERNAL.

5 per cent consolidated internal debt.....	\$2, 223
Revolution debt.....	23, 127
Floating debt.....	1, 341
6 per cent internal debt.....	2, 489
8 per cent consolidated internal debt.....	11, 961, 868
Waterworks.....	2, 035, 039
Total.....	24, 026, 082

EXTERNAL.

3 per cent external debt.....	13, 322, 910
13 per cent diplomatic debt.....	1, 230, 078
5 per cent Venezuelan debt (1896).....	9, 243, 000
Total.....	23, 795, 988

SUMMARY.

Internal debt.....	24, 026, 082
External debt.....	23, 795, 988
Total.....	47, 822, 070

PUBLIC DEBT IN 1903.

The statement of the public debt of Venezuela in 1903 is as follows:

	Bolivars.	United States equivalent.
Internal debt.....	70, 180, 422. 04	^a \$14, 026, 064. 40
Interest outstanding.....	22, 862, 666. 08	4, 570, 538. 32
Total.....	92, 983, 088. 67	18, 596, 613. 72
External debt.....	125, 363, 494. 86	25, 072, 696. 97
Interest outstanding.....	26, 281, 926. 22	5, 256, 886. 24
Total.....	151, 645, 421. 08	30, 329, 084. 29

SUMMARY OF DEBTS.

Public debt.....	196, 498, 916. 90	^a \$39, 096, 788. 38
Interest outstanding.....	49, 184, 592. 85	9, 826, 918. 57
Total indebtedness.....	244, 623, 509. 75	48, 925, 701. 95

^a Five bolivars taken as equivalent to the United States dollar.

INTERNATIONAL CONFLICT.^a

As a consequence of the blockade, and according to the protocols signed in Washington on February 13, 1903, the Government has paid the following sums:

To Mr. H. W. Bowen.....	^b \$5, 000
To the British Government (£5,500).....	28, 678
To the German legation.....	344, 753
To the Italian legation.....	27, 775
To the Venezuelan members of mixed commission.....	17, 803

^a Memoria de Hacienda of Venezuela, 1904, pages xi to xv.

^b United States currency.

To the different umpires.....	\$62, 162
Venezuela's share of Hague tribunal expenses.....	4, 500
To the agent of the Bank of England 30 per cent on custom receipts, according to protocols, from March to December, 1903c.....	836, 761
Sundry disbursements.....	3, 624
Total.....	^a 1, 331, 064

EXTRAORDINARY WAR TAX.^b

The 30 per cent of the La Guaira and Puerto Cabello customs receipts being appropriated according to article 5 of the Washington protocols of February 13, 1903, the Executive established the extraordinary war tax on February 16 of said year. It has produced from the latter month to December, 1903, \$1,952,034. Of this amount \$344,753 were paid to the German legation; \$27,775 to the Italian legation; \$75,631 to the French legation; \$62,441 for umpire's fees in mixed commissions; \$93,400 for special settlement of certain claims, and the balance was applied to other purposes.

BANKING.

Circulation banks.—All business houses of importance established in Venezuela carry on domestic and foreign banking operations, but the greater part of such transactions is effected through three institutions, viz, the Bank of Venezuela, the Bank of Caracas, and the Bank of Maracaibo, which are at present circulation banks and will cease to issue bank notes as soon as the "Banco Nacional de Venezuela" is established.

There exist also a loan bank (Monte de Piedad) with its annexed savings bank at Caracas, savings banks (2) at Maracaibo, and one at Táriba.

According to the new banking law in force, April 18, 1904, there shall be established, besides the deposit, draft, loan, and discount banks, a national issue bank, and a mortgage credit bank governed by special laws. The issue, deposit, draft, loan, and discount bank called "Banco Nacional de Venezuela" is established by decree of Congress dated April 18, 1904, with headquarters at Caracas and the necessary agencies throughout the Republic.

BANCO NACIONAL DE VENEZUELA.

Capital.—The capital of this bank is fixed at \$5,000,000 (25,000,000 bolivars) divided in 500-bolivar shares. The Government may subscribe totally or in part the capital of the bank, offer a portion of the shares for domestic or foreign subscription, or contract the establishment of the bank with a private person or company. Thirty per cent of the shares must be subscribed and paid in and the rest available on the director's demand. The bank is entitled to begin business as soon as it has in vault 20 per cent of its capital.

^a United States currency.

^b Memoria de Hacienda of Venezuela, 1904, pages xi to xv.



FEDERAL PALACE (NORTHWEST CORNER), CARACAS.
(Courtesy of the Venezuelan Government.)



Guaranty and reserve funds.—The bank shall always have in hand a guaranty fund of 20 per cent of its capital and 10 per cent of the net profit as reserve fund.

Transactions.—The bank may carry on all banking transactions, excepting those of mortgage credit, and the Government may grant to the bank the collection of the public revenue.

Bank-note issue.—It shall have the exclusive privilege to issue bank notes for a sum equal to the amount of its capital, and the lowest bank-note value shall be 20 bolivars (\$4) and the highest 1,000 bolivars (\$200). These notes are exchangeable on demand for cash; the general public is not compelled to receive them, but the Government shall accept them in payment of national dues, taxes, and duties.

Duration.—The bank is established for a term of twenty-five years, during which the Government shall not grant equal, better, or contrary concessions to other banks. Regarding the other rights and obligations, the bank is governed by stipulations similar to the provisions of the new banking law.

BANK OF VENEZUELA.

Capital.—This institution commenced business as a joint-stock company with a capital of 12,000,000 bolivars (\$2,500,000 United States currency), and was established on March 24, 1882, under the name of the "Commercial Bank," by some merchants of Caracas. During the first year its operations were purely commercial, but since 1883 the Government intrusted it with the treasury service and since then it has never ceased to be a state as well as a commercial bank. It was transformed in 1890 into the Bank of Venezuela, first with a capital of \$1,600,000 and then of \$3,000,000, and in August, 1899, it was reconstituted, with a capital of 12,000,000 bolivars (\$2,500,000), divided into 506 nominal shares of 20,000 bolivars (\$4,000) and 940 nominal coupons of 2,000 bolivars (\$400), subscribed in the country by native and foreign merchants.

Three-fourths of the capital, \$1,600,000, has been paid in and there has been no call for the last fourth. The reserve fund on December 31, 1903, was \$124,455 and the total activity of the banking transactions \$4,607,163, although it had in circulation but \$191,318 in bank notes.

Management.—The bank has a committee of five directors, one of whom is elected chairman every year by the general assembly of stockholders.

Agencies.—The bank's headquarters are at Caracas and it has 14 agencies, established at La Guaira, Puerto Cabello, Valencia, Maracaibo, Coro, San Cristóbal, Barcelona, Cumaná, Carúpano, Porlamar, Juan Griego, Guiria, Maturín, and Ciudad Bolívar.

Nature of transactions.—The bank derives its principal profit from being the agent of the Government, with which it has entered into an agreement to collect and disburse throughout the Republic the moneys

of the Government, for which the bank is paid a 2 per cent commission. It opened to the Government a current account credit of \$1,500,000, on which it charges 8 per cent interest per annum. On December 31, 1903, the balance outstanding in this regard was \$300,000. It may cease to be the Government's agent on the establishment of the "Banco Nacional de Venezuela."

Bank note issue.—The value of the bank notes issued by the bank has never reached \$400,000, although, according to the banking law in force, it is entitled to issue bank notes for \$8,200,000, which is double the paid-up capital. On December 31, 1903, it had \$191,318 bank notes in circulation and \$6,582 bank notes on hand. According to article 18 of the new banking law enacted on April 18, 1904, this bank will cease to issue bank notes and withdraw them from circulation within one year of the establishment of the national issue bank called "Banco Nacional de Venezuela" (capital, \$5,000,000).

Current accounts.—The bank opens accounts and charges 12 per cent interest per annum, with half yearly settlements.

Discounts.—All credit documents presented for discount must bear at least two signatures, unless they are bills of exchange, in which case the signature of the drawer and that of the negotiator are sufficient.

Dividends.—This bank pays an average dividend of 12 per cent per annum.

Balance sheet.—The following table gives the balance sheet of the Bank of Venezuela drawn on December 31, 1903:

BANK OF VENEZUELA.

[Joint-stock company. Capital, 12,000,000 bolivars.]

Balance on December 31, 1903.

Accounts.	Debit.	Accounts.	Credit.
	<i>Bolivars.</i>		<i>Bolivars.</i>
Stock	3,000,000.00	Capital	12,000,000.00
Cash		Dividends	11,140.00
Notes	32,910.00	Guaranty fund	200,000.00
	3,217,501.31	Bank notes in circulation	956,590
Agencies (cash)	971,350.18	Bank notes on hand	32,910
Notes delayed			989,500.00
Notes on hand	25,764.92	Current accounts overdrawn	1,565,064.28
Bills of exchange	937,392.68	Administration of salt mines	70,520.65
Securities	722,000.00	Profit and loss	420,000.00
	2,289,184.12	Service of the special emission (salt-mine guaranty)	89,931.50
Bills receivable	8,450.05	Special certificates emission	1,211,625.00
Sundry loans	4,975,288.88	Special certificates service	66,551.75
Foreign accounts	2,222,166.66	Reserve fund	722,376.97
Real estate	16,265.95	National Government 30 per cent import duties of maritime custom-houses of La Guaira and Puerto Cabello	522,747.35
Bank building	200,000.00	War-tax product	724,206.64
Furniture	26,519.70	Stamps account in suspense	4,439,986.75
Furniture in agencies	8,343.71	Interest in suspense	2,165.55
Deposit of salt certificates	1,190,500.00		
Deposit of postage stamps	3,820,232.55		
Stamps contractor	619,754.20		
G. Amsinck & Co. (coinage of silver)	63,145.87		
Silver coinage	403,278.68		
Operations in suspense	8,837.18		
Total	23,035,815.44	Total	23,035,815.44
	a \$4,607,163.08		a \$4,607,163.08

a 5 bolivars taken as equal to the United States dollar.

BANK OF CARACAS.

Capital.—This bank is a joint-stock company with a capital of 6,000,000 bolivars (\$1,200,000). It was established in 1890, and is exclusively a commercial bank. Its capital of \$1,200,000, of which three-quarters have been paid in, is divided into 600 nominal shares of 10,000 bolivars each, and has been subscribed by merchants residing in the country. The reserve fund on December 31, 1903, was \$94,024 and the guaranty fund \$75,000.

Management.—The bank's affairs are managed by five directors, elected for two years by the general assembly of stockholders. A manager attends to the daily transactions.

Agencies.—Caracas is the headquarters of the bank and it has agencies in La Guaira, Carúpano, Barcelona, Ciudad Bolivar, Puerto Cabello, Coro, and Maracaibo, and in other cities it makes use of the agencies of the Bank of Venezuela.

Bank-note issue.—This bank is entitled to issue \$2,400,000 in bank notes, but only in 1892, which was a year of very great commercial activity, did the bank notes reach this amount. On December 31, 1903, the bank notes in circulation amounted to \$157,796, and those on hand to \$2,404, giving an aggregate of \$160,200 in bank notes. According to article 18 of the new banking law in force, April 18, 1904, this bank ceases to issue bank notes and must withdraw those in circulation within one year of the establishment of the National Issue Bank decreed by Congress on April 18, 1904, called "Banco Nacional de Venezuela."

Current accounts.—The bank opens current accounts with or without guaranty and charges 12 per cent interest per annum with half-yearly settlements as a general rule, but with power to close any account fifteen days after having served notice to that effect.

Discounts.—The balance sheets, published by the bank, do not show the detail of the discount operations or the average exchange. The bank undertakes the collection of drafts drawn against persons residing in Venezuela. For drafts on Caracas the bank charges 1½ per cent commission, and for those on other points of Venezuela 2½ per cent. The bank very seldom undertakes to carry out protests on non-accepted drafts and does not take charge of collecting documentary drafts which may involve the necessity to receive merchandise in payment or become consignees of goods.

Loans.—The bank, according to its by-laws, can loan money for the term of six months with guaranties such as State, or private bonds, drafts with three well-known signatures, and sometimes goods on which sums are advanced in the form of warrants.

The Bank of Caracas is purely a commercial bank. The total activity of its transactions on December 31, 1903, amounted to \$4,222,000.

Since November 12, 1901, the Bank of Caracas has added to its business that of a savings bank annex, which is in operation.

Dividends.—The bank has paid since it was established an average dividend of 8 per cent per annum.

Balance sheet.—The following table gives the balance sheet of the Bank of Caracas drawn on December 31, 1903:

BANK OF CARACAS.

[Joint-stock company. Capital, 6,000,000 bolivars.]

Balance on December 31, 1903.

Accounts.	Debit.	Accounts.	Credit.
Vault:			<i>Bolivars.</i>
Cash.....		Capital.....	6,000,000.00
Notes.....		Reserve fund.....	470,122.50
	<i>Bolivars.</i>	Guaranty fund.....	375,000.00
	1,126,784.25	Dividends (not recovered).....	6,287.50
	12,020.00	Notes:	
Securities.		On hand (bank notes).....	12,020
Current accounts overdrawn.....	1,128,764.25	Circulation.....	788,980
Securities on hand.....	1,500,000.00		
Bills receivable.....	1,654,908.20		
Exchange.....	893,295.10		
Securities in vault.....	245,136.45		
Mortgage bonds.....	79,103.50		
Redemption accounts.....	78,315.00		
Real estate.....	1,539,536.35		
Foreign accounts.....	440,768.25		
Suspended operations.....	1,400,860.80		
Securities receivable.....	798,353.45		
Deposit of securities.....	472,988.40		
Furniture.....	489,325.40		
General expense.....	10,404,660.75		
	84,000.00		
Total		Total	
	21,110,000.90		21,110,000.90
	a \$4,222,000.18		a \$4,222,000.18

a 5 bolivars taken as equal to the United States dollar.

THE BANK OF MARACAIBO.

Capital.—This bank is a joint-stock company with a capital of 1,250,000 bolivars (\$250,000). It was established at Maracaibo in 1889 with local capital. Only three-quarters of the capital has been called in. The profit reserve of the bank on December 31, 1903, was \$19,344, and the total activity of the banking transactions on the same date \$736,273.

Management.—The bank is managed by three principal and three acting managers; by five principal and five acting members of the Assembly of Delegates; by two principal and two acting commissioners, and by one principal and one acting auditor.

Nature of transactions.—The local nature of this bank confines its operations principally to discounting bills with at least two signatures, and to current accounts, although, in a lesser degree, the bank loans money on real estate, sells drafts on foreign countries, and issues bank notes.

Bank-note issue.—This bank is entitled to issue bank notes to the amount of \$500,000, and according to the balance sheet published on

December 31, 1903, it had only \$76,958 of bank notes on hand and \$298,042 in circulation, which give a total issue of \$375,000 of bank notes. According to article 18 of the new banking law in force, April 18, 1904, this bank ceases to issue bank notes, and must withdraw those in circulation within one year of the establishment of the National Issue Bank decreed by Congress on April 18, 1904, called "Banco Nacional de Venezuela."

Dividends.—The bank paid on June 30, 1903, a dividend of \$5.30 on each share, which is equivalent to 14.13 per cent per annum.

Balance sheet.—The following table gives the balance sheet of the bank of Maracaibo, drawn on December 31, 1903:

BANK OF MARACAIBO.

[Joint stock company. Capital, 1,250,000 Bolivars.]

Balance December 31, 1903.

	Debit.		Credit.
	<i>Bolivars.</i>	<i>Bolivars.</i>	<i>Bolivars.</i>
Stock	312,500.00	Capital	937,500
		Reserve capital.....	312,500
Vault cash.....	550,736.42	Bank notes on hand.....	384,790
Bank notes	384,790.00	Bank notes in circulation.....	1,490,210
	935,526.42		1,875,000.00
Bills receivable.....	1,278,144.80	Profit reserve.....	96,728.20
Current accounts.....	733,776.30	Guaranty of former issue.....	8,800.00
Draft remittances.....	321,752.63	Deposits.....	298,641.16
Real estate.....	40,000.00	Deposits at sight.....	67,270.68
Bills of exchange.....	54,723.10	Current accounts overdrawn.....	12,884.67
Furniture.....	4,933.66	Dividends unclaimed.....	3,662.20
		Profits to be distributed among shareholders.....	68,375.00
Total.....	3,681,356.91	Total	3,681,356.91
	a \$736,273.38		a \$736,273.38

a Five bolivars taken as equal to the U. S. dollar.

The foregoing statements show that the credit transactions in Venezuela are analogous to those carried into execution by similar institutions in the United States of America and Europe. Banking legislation is framed on the lines of that of the United States of America; but the circulation of bank notes is very limited, due to the natural dislike of the Venezuelan people for paper money even when perfectly guaranteed, as is the case with the bank notes of the institutions taken into consideration. This is the principal guaranty against the establishment of paper money and one of the reasons why Venezuela has always had the gold standard, which, moreover, is a constitutional provision.

AGRICULTURAL CREDIT.

The agricultural credit in Venezuela lacks development. The country is essentially agricultural, and nevertheless the owner of rural property, who desires to mortgage it, finds it difficult to obtain the

loan because the existing commercial banks very seldom do this class of business. Sometimes a private individual consents to do it, and generally the large export houses who buy the crops take the mortgage of the property and charge 12 per cent interest per year, which is a ruinous proposition for the rural owner. Many attempts have been made toward establishing the much-needed agricultural banks, but none is in existence at present. The new banking law, enacted on April 18, 1904, and of which the full text is given hereunder, provides, however, for the establishment of a mortgage credit bank which shall be governed by a special law.

NEW BANKING LAW.

The Congress of the United States of Venezuela decrees:

ARTICLE 1. Deposit, draft, loan, and discount banks may be established in Venezuela.

There shall also be established a national-issue bank and a mortgage-credit bank, which shall be governed by special laws.

ART. 2. Banks are mercantile establishments, and their acts shall be subject to the code of commerce and to the provisions of the present law.

ART. 3. Deposit, draft, loan, and discount banks may be established without restriction like any other commercial establishment, by one person, by a company as a joint firm, as single silent partners, or by shares and joint-stock companies.

ART. 4. For the purposes of the national statistics, all persons or commercial houses which are habitually engaged in banking business of this kind shall give notice thereof to the authority whose duty it is to issue the industrial licenses of the locality.

ART. 5. Shares of banks may be attached or even sold by decision of a court of justice, but not to the extent of withdrawing its value, but to consider the net amount remaining in the bank in favor of the defendant as belonging to the purchaser who substitutes the shareholder.

ART. 6. The above-mentioned banks, in order to be legally established, shall comply with the following formalities: (1) Fifteen days, at least, before the date fixed for the installation of the bank they must deliver at the fomento department an authentic copy of the contract, which the person or company who desires to establish it should previously make, and have the same recorded in the registry office of the district in the jurisdiction of which its headquarters are to be situated. The said deed shall contain the name and denomination of the bank; the class to which it belongs, the cash capital with which it will be formed; the manner and time in which that capital has to be paid up; the object proposed; the place of the mercantile domicile of the bank; the number of branches and agencies which the bank is to have,

stating the functions, capital, and residence of each of them, and, finally, the time for which the bank is established. (2) They shall likewise submit to the said department a copy of the rules and by-laws which they have adopted for the interior government and management of the bank. (3) If the bank is constituted by a commercial company, it shall deliver, together with the preceding documents, an authentic copy of the deeds for the formation of the said company.

ART. 7. If the documents mentioned in the preceding article are in accordance with the law, the National Executive shall order the license to be issued to the bank, and the same shall be signed and countersigned by the minister of fomento and shall be registered and immediately published in the tribunal of commerce within the jurisdiction of which the said bank is located.

ART. 8. The banks referred to in the present law shall have the following duties:

1. To publish monthly, through the press, the balance sheet taken from their books, which shall clearly set out the total value of the specie in vault, specifying the quantities in gold and silver of which it is composed; the amount and nature of the deposits, if there are any; and of the promissory notes and commercial bonds in their possession, stating the time they are due, distinguishing those liable to be paid, those overdue, and those liable to remain unpaid, of all of which a separate account shall be kept.

The three banks to which article 18 refers, during the term allowed to withdraw their bank notes, shall also state the amount of those in hand and those in circulation.

2. To likewise publish, through the press, the minutes of the general boards and transmit information to the fomento department of any alterations that may have been effected in the by-laws, which must be approved by the Government.

ART. 9. Banks shall form a guaranty fund with a part of their capital and shall set apart at least 10 per cent of their net profit to form the reserve fund.

ART. 10. The banks shall have their headquarters, domicile, and central office in the city where the principal establishment of their business is situated.

ART. 11. The above-mentioned banks may establish other branches or agencies besides those mentioned in the deed under which they are established, on giving notice to the National Executive through the fomento department.

ART. 12. Any bank which shall lose half of its capital shall immediately go into liquidation, unless its partners, shareholders, or other persons reconstitute the original capital. The creditors of or debtors to the bank shall not be admitted as new partners in the reorganization of the institution.

ART. 13. Any bank violating the provisions contained in articles 6, 8, and 12 of this law shall be deprived of the license which the National Executive may have issued to it, and its main and branch offices shall be closed. The Government shall proceed in these cases summarily, through the fomento department, after the violation has been fully established.

ART. 14. The promoters, directors, or agents of the banks who should make false declarations in the documents which they are obliged to lay before the Government according to article 6, and those who should publish false data and reports for the purpose of complying with the provisions of article 8, shall be sued criminally as guilty of fraud, and the banks in which the said offenses have been committed shall be closed, as provided in the preceding article.

ART. 15. Directors and managers who distribute false dividends as clearances shall be punished as impostors, and those who conceal the real profit of the bank and distribute smaller dividends shall be considered as committing theft.

ART. 16. Besides the penalties provided by article 761 of the code of commerce, directors, agents, partners, or employees who by their deceitful or guilty acts occasion the failure of a bank shall be punished as fraudulent bankrupts.

ART. 17. The penalties established in the foregoing articles do not prevent anyone who may have suffered loss through the denounced violations from exercising the right of claiming compensation from the violator for loss and damage. Responsibility may be made effective solidarily against those that may appear culpable.

ART. 18. The three banks existing in the Republic, namely, the Venezuela, Caracas, and Maracaibo banks, which on their being established were issue and circulation banks, shall not make any more issues of bank notes, but those already issued may remain in circulation during one year, to be reckoned from the day on which the national bank of issue shall be established, and time granted to totally withdraw them.

ART. 19. The National Executive shall make rules and regulations for the working of the present law.

ART. 20. The law of April 16, 1903, is hereby repealed.

Done in the Legislative Palace of Caracas on April 16, 1904. Ninety-third year of the Independence and forty-sixth of the Federation. The president of the Senate. SANTIAGO BRICEÑO. The president of the Chamber of Deputies. JOSÉ IGNACIO LARES. Federal Palace of Caracas, April 18, 1904. Ninety-third year of the Independence and forty-sixth of the Federation. Be it enacted. CIPRIANO CASTRO. Countersigned: The minister of fomento. R. GARBIRAS GUZMÁN.

CURRENCY.

Values based on gold.—All values in Venezuela are based and computed on gold. Gold of all nations since 1871 is authorized to circulate but as a commodity, at a fixed and unalterable price.

Silver currency at par.—Silver currency of any foreign country is forbidden circulation since 1886, but that of Venezuela is, and has always been, on a parity with its gold, and is accepted as part of payments of dues on public and private transactions without the least loss or decline in value. This is due to the fact that at present and never before has silver been coined or offered in Venezuela in excess of its demand as a circulating medium or of the Government's ability to redeem it at par in gold.

Bank notes guaranteed.—The only paper money in circulation is bank notes issued now by the Venezuela, Caracas, and Maracaibo banks, but which are only to be issued by the Banco Nacional de Venezuela on its establishment; but the Government is not responsible for them, and their acceptance is not compulsory. The issue of bank notes is limited and perfectly guaranteed.

Soundness of the monetary system.—The monetary system of Venezuela is absolutely based on gold. Silver and bank notes exchange at par with gold, and there never has circulated before, nor is there in circulation at present, any depreciated fiduciary currency of any kind whatever. Therefore the gold-basis system is in no way nominal or fictitious, but perfectly sound, which circumstance places Venezuela in a unique position in this regard among all the Latin-American republics.

Gold standard.—The regulation of the standard, value, fineness, weight, and coinage of national gold and silver coins, *gold being the monetary standard*, and the decision regarding the admission and circulation of foreign gold currency, which is and shall be free in Venezuela, are fixed by Congress according to powers vested in it by article 52, paragraph 7, of Section V of the constitution.

Paper money not legal tender.—Neither the legislative nor the executive power nor any authority of the Republic shall issue paper money in any case or under any circumstances whatever, nor declare as legal tender any kind of bank notes nor any value represented on paper, nor allow the importation into Venezuela of any foreign or national currency but that of gold coins.

Congress decrees coinage.—Only Congress can sanction the coinage or importation of silver or nickel currency by the Government of the nation. Congress shall in no case authorize the coinage or importation of any sums which shall make the total silver currency in circulation exceed 8 bolivars (\$1.60) and the nickel 1 bolivar (19 cents) per head of inhabitants according to the census legally in force.

Currency per unit of population.—The gold and silver currency circulation in Venezuela at present is estimated at the rate of \$8 in gold currency and \$1.25 in silver currency per unit of population according to the latest data available. This exceptionally favorable circumstance needs no comment.

HISTORY OF VENEZUELAN CURRENCY.^a

FROM 1498 TO 1820.

1498–1776.—The aborigines of America did not understand the use of currency, for they bartered only. Spanish currency was introduced in Venezuela in 1498 by Columbus. When the Venezuelan island of Cubagua was inhabited, Spanish money circulated, and pearls were accepted as legal tender for Spanish commodities. Gold dust and grains of gold from the mines in the mainland were also used as currency, and even cacao grains were used as such. When Spain interdicted the exportation of her currency to America silver money, called *macuquino*, of several denominations was introduced and increased in quantity, especially during the epoch of the Guipuzcoan Company (1728–1776), but was gradually withdrawn from circulation. In the latter part of the eighteenth century besides Spanish gold there was a considerable amount of Mexican and New Granadan currency in circulation.

1780.—In 1780 small copper, lead, and tin coins were put into local circulation by merchants.

1809–1812.—In 1809 there was already a royal mint in Caracas. One of the first steps of the Republican government was to create Venezuelan currency, which made its appearance in 1812.

1814–1820.—In 1814 silver was coined for the patriots in the Caracas mint. From 1817 to 1820 both the royalists and the patriots had small coins minted, and when the Republic was definitely established, in 1821, new silver currency was put into circulation.

FROM 1821 TO 1827.

After the independence, during the Colombian period, currency of all European countries was allowed to circulate at a given standard price.

1821.—On September 29, 1821, the Colombian Congress issued a law regulating gold, silver, and copper currency. Similar legislation was enacted in 1826 and 1827.

1827.—In 1827 better machinery was adopted in the mints of Bogotá and Popayán, and the currency issued by these mints circulated in Venezuela.

^a Abstract of M. Landaeta-Rosales's *Riqueza Circulante*, 1903.

FROM 1830 TO 1869.

1830.—The Constituent Congress of Venezuela on July 5, 1830, interdicted the coinage of silver money, which was being carried out at the time at Caracas.

1834.—On May 13, 1834, Congress allowed the Spanish silver dollars and the Spanish *gold ounces*, as well as the silver and gold pieces and fractionary coins of the new American republics of the same weight and fineness as the first mentioned, to be accepted at a fixed price in all bureaus of Venezuela. The United States dollar and its fractions, French (5-franc piece), English (1 shilling), Portuguese and Brazilian (1 peso) money were also accepted at a stated price, and the Executive was empowered to coin in the United States and put into circulation in Venezuela *1-centavo* and *half-centavo* copper coins to the amount of \$20,000 and \$5,000, respectively.

1835.—On March 28, 1835, the half-shilling piece (sixpence) of England and her colonies was allowed to circulate at a given price.

1840.—On May 2, 1840, the Executive was empowered to allow French fractionary silver coin to circulate at a stated price.

1841.—On March 23, 1841, currency was forbidden circulation.

1842.—On March 29, 1842, copper coins of 1, one-half, and one-fourth decimal centavos to the amount of \$20,000 were ordered coined, and were introduced into Venezuela in said year and in 1843.

1844.—On October 12, 1844, the Executive passed a resolution declaring that the effects of the law of March 29, 1842, had ceased.

1846.—On September 16, 1846, the circulation of certain metal pieces issued at Nirgua was forbidden. By law of March 30, 1848, the franc piece was adopted as monetary unit, and all other foreign currency existing in the country was ordered to circulate according to its relative value, the law of March 28, 1835, being therefore repealed.

1849.—On September 17, 1849, the Executive passed a resolution allowing the circulation of Central American gold ounce pieces of 1837 at the rate of 84 francs each.

1851.—Executive resolution of October 24, 1851, declared as counterfeited all coins not having the proper weight.

1852.—During the year 1852 the Government introduced one-half and one-fourth centavo copper coins to the value of \$4,500. These coins were larger than those of 1843, and as they were introduced during General Monagas's Presidential term they were called *monagneros* and under that denomination may be found in coin collections.

1854.—By law of April 1, 1854, the Caracas mint was established, and a new type was adopted for Venezuelan coinage, called the *venezolano*. The gold pieces were the ounce (*onza*), one-half, one-fourth, one-eighth of an ounce, or *escudo*, and the one-sixteenth, or *venezolano* gold dollar, which had the same weight and fineness as the coins of

equal class of the French decimal type. Silver coins were the silver *venezolano* and one-half, one-eighth, and one-sixteenth fractions. Copper coins were fractioned into quarters and eights.

1855.—On July 1855, measures were enacted by the Executive to prevent the introduction of counterfeit money.

1857.—On March 23, 1857, Congress decreed to coin abroad gold, silver, and copper currency, as the mint had not been established. The gold peso or dollar of 10 reales was declared to be the monetary unit of the Republic. The gold pieces were 1, 5, and 20 peso coins, 0.900 fine, 14, 21, and 26 millimeters diameter, and 620, 124, and 62 to the kilo, respectively. Silver coinage of 0.900 fine was represented as follows:

Half peso, 11.50 grams, 30 millimeters diameter.

Peseta (one-fifth peso), 4.60 grams, 23 millimeters diameter.

Real (one-tenth peso), 2.30 grams, 18 millimeters diameter.

Half real (one-twentieth peso), 1.15 grams, 16 millimeters diameter.

Copper coins consisted of an alloy of copper, tin, and zinc (0.750), with a diameter of 25 millimeters.

In accordance with said law \$25,000 worth of silver pieces were coined at the Paris mint, the coinage expense amounting to 18 per cent, and later \$20,000 worth of copper currency was legally introduced in Venezuela.

1865.—On June 12, 1865, Congress authorized the establishment of one or more mints in Venezuela, the gold *venezolano* becoming the monetary unit—5, 10, and 20 *venezolano* gold pieces of 0.900 fine—the four denominations having diameters of 17, 22, 28, and 35 millimeters, respectively, and weighing, respectively, 1,612, 8,064, 16,129, and 32,258 grams each. Silver coins were 0.800 fine and of the same denomination, diameter, and weight as those decreed in 1857. Copper coins had 95 parts of pure copper, 4 of tin, and 1 of zinc. On September 11, 1865, the Government established the fixed price for which the following foreign coins were to be received, viz:

	Pesos.
Colombian gold cóndor	12.50
Spanish peseta .....	.25
Spanish peseta, <i>columnaria</i> .....	.31
North American 25-cent piece .....	.31
Peruvian 25-cent piece .....	.31
Mexican 25-cent piece .....	.31

1866-1869.—From the year 1866 to that of 1869 no currency legislation was enacted in Venezuela.

FROM 1870 TO 1877.

1870.—On November 28, 1870, the Government withdrew from circulation the currency which had not the legal weight, due to usage.

1871.—On February 7, 1871, the German thaler was assigned a cir-

culating value. On May 11 of the same year a new currency law was enacted, according to which the gold venezolano was adopted as the monetary unit of the Republic, this and three other gold pieces similar in fineness, diameter, and weight to those enacted by law of June 12, 1865, and silver currency 0.900 and 0.835 fine similar in denomination, diameter, and weight as those of the law of 1865, as also similar copper currency, were decreed.

On December 29, 1871, the Government published a table of the conversion of foreign coins authorized to circulate as legal tender at given prices from the following countries, viz, France, Great Britain, Spain, Colombia, Peru, Chile, Mexico, Argentine Republic, Bolivia, Brazil, Central America, United States of America, and Germany.

1873.—On June 11 and August 13, 1873, the Caracas Credit Company received order from the Government to coin in Paris 100,000 venezolanos in silver currency.

1874.—On February 13 and 28, 1874, the Government enacted the withdrawal from circulation of defaced coins, paying $87\frac{1}{2}$ decimal centavos of venezolano per ounce of defaced silver.

On March 18, 1874, perforated national or foreign currency was declared not to be legal tender by a resolution of the department of the interior, which gave a detailed description of the several coins affected by said resolution.

On February 16 and September 4, 1874, the aggregate sum of 400,000 venezolanos national silver currency was ordered coined in Paris, and on September 5, 1874, the Government ordered coined in Paris 190,000 venezolanos national gold currency.

1875.—The national gold currency introduced in Venezuela in 1875 amounted to 69,200 gold 5-venezolano pieces, giving a total of 346,000 venezolanos.

1876-77.—In September, October, and November, 1876, silver currency to the value of 160,000 venezolanos was imported into Venezuela, and 35,000 venezolanos of the same currency coined at and imported from the Paris mint. Nickel currency to the amount of 120,000 venezolanos was also imported and placed in circulation on January 15, 1877.

FROM 1879 TO 1889.

1879.—On March 12, 1879, a law was passed declaring that foreign currency was not legal tender, but merchandise, and was received according to an unchangeable tariff which was established.

On March 31, 1879, a new currency law was enacted, according to which Venezuelan currency was to consist of gold, silver, and nickel pieces, the gold and silver kilo to be considered divided into one thousand parts, gold fineness to be 0.900 and silver 0.900 and 0.835. The bolivar (equal to 1 franc) became and still is the monetary unit.

Gold and silver pieces are represented as follows:

GOLD COINS.

Bolivars.	Fineness.	Diameter.	Number to the kilo.	Weight of coins.
	<i>Thousands.</i>	<i>Millimeters.</i>		<i>Grams.</i>
100	900	35	31	82.25806
50	900	28	62	16.12908
20	900	21	155	6.45161
10	900	19	310	3.22580
5	900	17	620	1.61290

SILVER COINS.

Bolivars.	Fineness.	Diameter.	Weight of coins.
	<i>Thousands.</i>	<i>Millimeters.</i>	<i>Grams.</i>
5	900	47	25
2	835	27	10
1	835	23	5
1	835	18	2½
1	885	16	1

NICKEL COINS.

These coins are represented by pieces of 5 and 12½ cents of bolivar.

The currency law restricted to 50 bolivars silver and 20 bolivars nickel the amount receivable as part of each payment, and established the rule for the importation of foreign currency.

1880.—On July 6, 1880, the Government passed a resolution taking into consideration the excess of foreign silver coinage and the fall in the price of silver, and ordering stated silver coins to be receivable only at a given tabulated price.

In November, 1880, the following quantity of Venezuelan gold and silver currency, coined at Brussels, was introduced into the Republic, viz:

	Bolivars.
125,000 gold pieces (20 bolivars)	2,500,000
250,000 silver pieces (5 bolivars)	1,250,000
375,000 silver pieces (2 bolivars)	750,000
375,000 silver pieces (1 bolivar)	375,000
200,000 silver pieces (0.50 bolivar)	100,000
125,000 silver pieces (0.20 bolivar)	25,000
1,450,000	5,000,000

1884.—In 1884 the Government decided to have coined abroad 2,500,000 Venezuelan gold and 2,500,000 Venezuelan silver currency.

1885.—On January 27, 1885, the Government contracted for the establishment of a regular mint at Caracas, and in October, 1886, it was established at a cost of \$1,327,896.

1886.—On October 25, 1886, Congress passed a law absolutely forbidding the importation of foreign silver currency, allowing foreign gold currency to be receivable at will at a fixed tabulated price and declaring Venezuelan gold and silver currency as the only legal tender. The Caracas mint exchanged the foreign silver currency which was in circulation at a fixed price.

1887.—Congress repealed the currency law of 1879, and a new one was enacted on June 2, 1887. The bolivar (equal to 1 franc) continued to be the monetary unit, and the gold, silver, and nickel currency remained unchanged in regard to denomination, fineness, diameter, quantity to the kilo or its fractions, and weight and limit of silver and nickel currency receivable as part of each payment.

1889.—The Caracas mint coined from October, 1886, to June, 1889 (thirty-three months), the following quantity of Venezuelan currency:

	Bolivars.
Venezuelan gold currency	12, 240, 720
Venezuelan silver currency	10, 862, 997
Total	23, 103, 717
	^a \$4, 620, 743

FROM 1891 TO 1903.

1891.—On June 26, 1891, the Venezuelan Government enacted the *last currency law, which is now in force*. It is almost identical with that of 1887, the only material alteration being the issue of 25 céntimos silver pieces instead of 20-céntimos pieces.

1893.—On April 4, 1893, the Government ordered coined 6,000,000 bolivars of silver currency and 500,000 bolivars of nickel currency.

1896.—On June 30, 1896, the Government ordered coined 200,000 bolivars of nickel currency.

1899.—On December 5, 1899, the Government ordered coined abroad 2,000,000 bolivars of silver currency.

1902.—On March 26, 1902, the Government ordered coined abroad 2,000,000 bolivars of silver currency.

1903.—On May 8, 1903, the Government issued a decree providing for the coinage of 4,000,000 bolivars of silver coinage.

STAMP LAW.

Cipriano Castro, general in chief of the armies of Venezuela and supreme chief of the Republic, decrees:

ARTICLE I. The national tax-of-instruction stamps will be continued according to the following tariff:

On documents or writings of any kind which deal with values, whether for circulation in the Republic or foreign countries, stamps will be affixed and canceled as follows:

Value.		Stamp.	
<i>Bolivars.</i>		<i>Bolivars.</i>	
25 to 50	\$4. 82 to \$9. 65	0. 05	\$. 0096
51 to 100	9. 65 to 19. 30	. 10	. 0193
101 to 200	19. 30 to 38. 60	. 20	. 0386
201 to 300	38. 60 to 57. 90	. 30	. 0579
301 to 400	57. 90 to 77. 20	. 40	. 0772
401 to 500	77. 20 to 96. 50	. 50	. 0965
501 to 1, 000	96. 50 to 193. 00	1. 00	. 193

^a United States currency.

And from 1,000 bolivars on, a stamp of 1 bolivar for every additional thousand or fraction thereof.

§ The stamps which, according to this article, must be canceled on checks and drafts must be attached to the stubs thereof, or on the original if there is no stub.

ART. II. Navigation licenses will have stamps canceled on them as follows:

Ships of—	Stamp.	
	<i>Bolivars.</i>	
10 to 50 tons.....	0.50	\$0.0965
51 to 100 tons.....	1.00	.193
101 to 500 tons.....	1.50	.289
501 to 1,000 tons.....	3.00	.579
1,001 to 2,000 tons.....	5.00	.965
2,001 tons and over.....	10.00	1.93

ART. III. A stamp of 2 bolivars (38.6 cents) will be used for the bill of health of sailing vessels and one of 10 bolivars (\$1.93) for that of steam vessels.

ART. IV. On importation and exportation manifests stamps of 2 bolivars (38.6 cents) will be used for each 1,000 bolivars (\$193) of said manifests, and on coast-trade manifests stamps of 1 bolivar (19.3 cents) will be used for each 1,000 bolivars.

ART. V. On bills of lading for coast trade stamps of 2 bolivars (38.6 cents) will be used, and on those for export stamps of 5 bolivars (96.5 cents).

ART. VI. Stamps of 1 bolivar (19.3 cents) will be used—

(1) On all petitions or demands for justice sent in writing to any public employee, at the rate of 1 bolivar (19.3 cents) for each party interested. If more than twenty persons are interested, only this number needs to provide stamps.

(2) On all authorized copies.

(3) On all second-class passage tickets sold by agents of steam or sailing vessels.

(4) On manifests for the importation of cartridges, pistols, revolvers, and all firearms at the rate of 1 bolivar (19.3 cents) for each piece, and 1 bolivar for every kilo of cartridges, with the exception of such arms and cartridges as are to be used for hunting purposes exclusively.

ART. VII. Stamps of 2 bolivars (38.6 cents) will be used—

(1) On certificates of exemption from military service on account of sickness or any other cause.

(2) On all certificates of public officials of whatever rank.

(3) On all first-class tickets sold by steam or sailing vessel agencies.

(4) On documents granting special powers, whether given by one or more persons.

(5) On the substitutions and revocations of such powers.

(6) On degrees of bachelor of arts, preceptor, veterinary surgeon, or those of any other liberal or mechanical profession.

ART. VIII. Stamps of 4 bolivars (77.2 cents) will be used—

(1) On documents granting full powers, whether given by one or more persons.

(2) On substitutions or withdrawals of same.

(3) On open wills and on documents revoking same.

(4) On licenses for carrying arms.

ART. IX. Stamps of 10 bolivars (\$1.93) will be used—

(1) On contracts, transactions, and other acts in which civil or commercial associations are re-formed, extended, or dissolved.

(2) On contracts, transactions, and all other acts in which rights or services that can not be expressed in figures, such as real or personal services, are constituted, transferred, modified, or renounced.

(3) On the granting of rights to guardians and tutors; on declarations of emancipation, prohibitions, disqualifications; on documents legitimizing and recognizing illegitimate children, adoptions, and on acts revoking, modifying, or annulling the above.

(4) On all final sentences in civil and mercantile matters, with the exception of what is set forth in Article XVII.

(5) On the title-pages of wills and closed codicils.

(6) On personal bonds for values or services that can not be expressed in figures, as well as on cancellations of same.

(7) On the recordings of suits and sentences which, according to the civil code, must be registered, as well as on the drawing up of legal mortgages.

(8) On degrees of doctor or professor of any science, and on those of lawyer, solicitor, engineer, surveyor, dentist, and man midwife.

(9) On permits for public amusements.

(10) On letters of nationality.

(11) On literary or artistic copyrights or privileges.

(12) On permits of private vehicles.

ART. X. Stamps of 20 bolivars (\$3.86) will be used—

(1) On writings concerning values given as dowries or matrimonial cessions which can not be given in figures.

(2) On the final receipts or discharges of public accounts.

(3) On privileges granted to new industries.

(4) On patents of navigation.

(5) On trade-marks or commercial patents.

(6) On invention patents.

ART. XI. Stamps to the value of 40 bolivars (\$7.72) will be used—

(1) On deeds of mines and of concessions of public or municipal lands.

(2) On cancellations of mortgages of every description and other

similar obligations, on divisions of property, liquidations of same, donations between living persons, revocations of same and declarations of reduction, and all other cases when one-fourth of 1 per cent is paid for registry charges when it is not possible to obtain the sum total of the values which the acts mentioned above represent.

(3) In exemptions from importation duties such as are not included in Article III.

ART. XII. The tax will be paid in the proportion given in Article I of this decree—

(1) On contracts, transactions, and other acts which deal with pensions, such as leases, life incomes, annuities, partial alienations, the tax to be paid will be that corresponding to the sum of the pensions or incomes to be paid during the first five years.

(2) When obligations of this kind are transferred to other persons or to other properties or are modified, decided upon, or renounced.

(3) On cancellations of promissory notes, guaranties, bonds, mortgages of all kinds, and other obligations; on divisions of property, acts of adjudging, liquidations of property, revocations, and declarations of reduction of donations between living persons; and in all cases where one-fourth of 1 per cent is paid for registry charges, the stamp tax will be paid on the amount expressed in or referred to by such documents.

§ When a document has to be recorded in different registry offices, owing to the situation of the properties, stamps will be used only in proportion to the value of the property that occasions the recording.

(4) On the final receipts and discharges of private accounts.

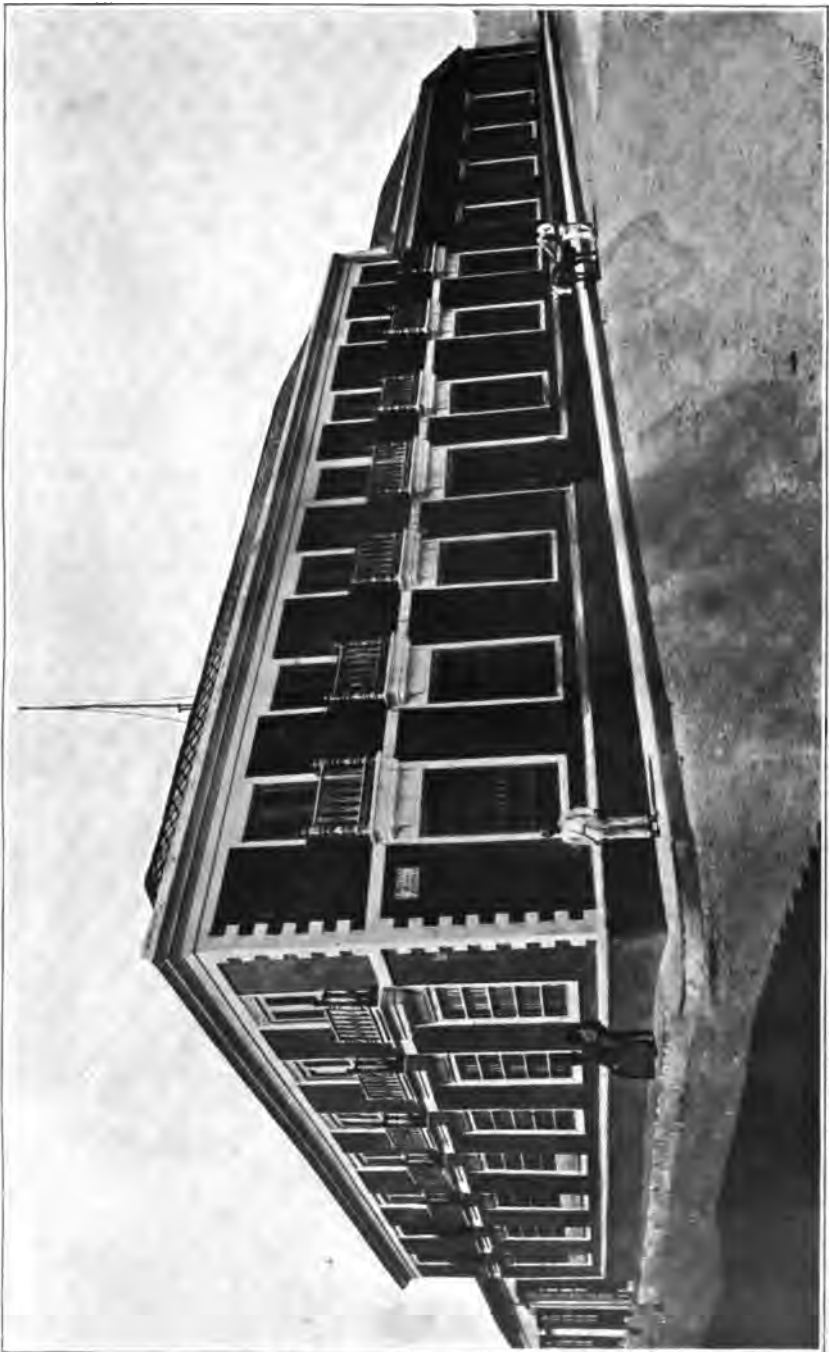
(5) On the titles of civil, military, and ecclesiastical employees, and on documents giving military rank in the army and navy, stamps will be used corresponding to the amount of salary for one year.

(6) On documents of marriage portions and matrimonial cessions stamps will be used in proportion to the amount received by the married parties.

(7) On stocks, bonds, or policies of corporations or other such companies stamps will be used of the value corresponding to the value of such stocks, etc.

(8) On industrial patents the stamps to be used should correspond to the amount of the taxes on such patents during one year.

ART. XIII. On papers granting exemption from importation duties, given by the Federal Executive, stamps should be used by the parties concerned on the respective manifests as follows: One hundred bolivars (\$19.30) when the exemption is granted on machinery, utensils, or articles for mines; 10 bolivars (\$1.93) when on machinery, utensils, or other articles for industrial undertakings of other kinds; and 50 bolivars (\$9.65) on any other exemptions.



CHIQUEQUIRÁ HOSPITAL, MARACAIBO.
(Courtesy of the Zulia Government.)



ART. XIV. On donations to relatives 3 per cent of the total amount will be used in stamps, and on donations to persons not related to the donor 20 per cent of such amount.

§ When the donor reserves the right of enjoying and using the donation during his lifetime, the stamping of the document will be effected after his death; but if the reservation be partial or limits in any way the enjoyment of the donation by the recipient thereof, this will be done at the time of the donation, deducting the value of the reservation, upon which the corresponding stamp tax will be levied upon the death of the donor.

ART. XV. The stamp tax formerly levied on cigarettes and tobacco will be collected in the custom-houses on imported cigarettes and tobacco at the rate of 2 bolivars (38.6 cents) per kilo (2.2046 pounds). The use of stamps on the cigarette packages is hereby eliminated, and the tax created by paragraphs 15 and 16 of the law of June 3, 1897, is revoked.

The collection of taxes on cigarettes and tobacco which may be imported into the country will be made in the same way as that of custom-house duties, and the product will be sent semimonthly to the general treasury of public instruction.

The collectors of the custom-houses will open a special account for this branch of collection and will submit a report of same to the minister of public instruction on the first of each month.

ART. XVI. On contracts made by the Government the stamp tax created by the registry law now in force will be paid.

ART. XVII. The following are exempt from stamp taxes:

Receipts for payments in the public service and those granted by public officials for sums belonging to the national treasury.

Final sentences pronounced in civil and mercantile cases of minor importance.

ART. XVIII. Merchants doing business in whatever branch of merchandise or natural products will pay a stamp tax of 10 per cent of the license they pay annually for their cash sales.

ART. XIX. This decree will go into force on the 1st of next July, from which date all other decrees dealing with the subject are to be considered as repealed.

ART. XX. The minister of public instruction is charged with the execution of this decree.

Given, signed by me, sealed with the seal of the National Executive, and ratified by the minister of public instruction in the Federal palace at Caracas, June 13, 1900, eighty-ninth year of independence and forty-second of federation.

World's commercial ratio of silver to gold from 1687 to 1902.

[Report of the Director of the United States Mint, 1903, p. 137.]

Year.	Ratio.	Year.	Ratio.	Year.	Ratio.	Year.	Ratio.	Year.	Ratio.	Year.	Ratio.
1687....	14.94	1723....	15.20	1759....	14.15	1795....	15.55	1831....	15.72	1867....	15.57
1688....	14.94	1724....	15.11	1760....	14.14	1796....	15.65	1832....	15.73	1868....	15.59
1689....	15.02	1725....	15.11	1761....	14.54	1797....	15.41	1833....	15.93	1869....	15.60
1690....	15.02	1726....	15.15	1762....	15.27	1798....	15.59	1834....	15.73	1870....	15.57
1691....	14.98	1727....	15.24	1763....	14.99	1799....	15.74	1835....	15.80	1871....	15.57
1692....	14.92	1728....	15.11	1764....	14.70	1800....	15.68	1836....	15.72	1872....	15.63
1693....	14.83	1729....	14.92	1765....	14.83	1801....	15.46	1837....	15.83	1873....	15.93
1694....	14.87	1730....	14.81	1766....	14.80	1802....	15.26	1838....	15.85	1874....	16.16
1695....	15.02	1731....	14.94	1767....	14.85	1803....	15.41	1839....	15.62	1875....	16.64
1696....	15.00	1732....	15.09	1768....	14.80	1804....	15.41	1840....	15.62	1876....	17.75
1697....	15.20	1733....	15.18	1769....	14.72	1805....	15.79	1841....	15.70	1877....	17.20
1698....	15.07	1734....	15.39	1770....	14.62	1806....	15.52	1842....	15.87	1878....	17.92
1699....	14.94	1735....	15.41	1771....	14.66	1807....	15.43	1843....	15.93	1879....	18.39
1700....	14.81	1736....	15.18	1772....	14.62	1808....	16.08	1844....	15.85	1880....	18.05
1701....	15.07	1737....	15.02	1773....	14.62	1809....	15.96	1845....	15.92	1881....	18.25
1702....	15.52	1738....	14.91	1774....	14.62	1810....	15.77	1846....	15.90	1882....	18.20
1703....	15.17	1739....	14.91	1775....	14.72	1811....	15.53	1847....	15.80	1883....	18.64
1704....	15.22	1740....	14.94	1776....	14.55	1812....	16.11	1848....	15.85	1884....	18.61
1705....	15.11	1741....	14.92	1777....	14.54	1813....	16.25	1849....	15.78	1885....	19.41
1706....	15.27	1742....	14.85	1778....	14.68	1814....	15.04	1850....	15.70	1886....	20.78
1707....	15.44	1743....	14.85	1779....	14.80	1815....	15.26	1851....	15.46	1887....	21.10
1708....	15.41	1744....	14.87	1780....	14.72	1816....	15.28	1852....	15.59	1888....	22.00
1709....	15.31	1745....	14.98	1781....	14.78	1817....	15.11	1853....	15.33	1889....	22.10
1710....	15.22	1746....	15.13	1782....	14.42	1818....	15.35	1854....	15.33	1890....	19.75
1711....	15.29	1747....	15.26	1783....	14.48	1819....	15.33	1855....	15.38	1891....	20.92
1712....	15.31	1748....	15.11	1784....	14.70	1820....	15.62	1856....	15.38	1892....	23.72
1713....	15.24	1749....	14.80	1785....	14.92	1821....	15.95	1857....	15.27	1893....	25.49
1714....	15.13	1750....	14.55	1786....	14.96	1822....	15.80	1858....	15.38	1894....	32.56
1715....	15.11	1751....	14.39	1787....	14.92	1823....	15.84	1859....	15.19	1895....	31.60
1716....	15.09	1752....	14.54	1788....	14.65	1824....	15.82	1860....	15.29	1896....	30.59
1717....	15.18	1753....	14.54	1789....	14.75	1825....	15.70	1861....	15.50	1897....	34.39
1718....	15.11	1754....	14.48	1790....	15.04	1826....	15.76	1862....	15.35	1898....	35.03
1719....	15.09	1755....	14.68	1791....	15.06	1827....	15.74	1863....	15.37	1899....	34.36
1720....	15.04	1756....	14.94	1792....	15.17	1828....	15.78	1864....	15.37	1900....	33.33
1721....	15.05	1757....	14.87	1793....	15.00	1829....	15.78	1865....	15.44	1901....	34.68
1722....	15.17	1758....	14.85	1794....	15.87	1830....	15.82	1866....	15.43	1902....	39.15

[NOTE.—From 1687 to 1832 the ratios are taken from Dr. A. Soetbeer; from 1833 to 1878 from Pixley and Abell's tables, and from 1879 to 1894 from daily cablegrams from London to the Bureau of the Mint.]

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CHAPTER XI.

MEANS OF COMMUNICATION—INTERIOR AND TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES—STEAMSHIP LINES—SHIPPING RETURNS—HARBOR DUES—RAILROADS—TRAMWAYS—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, TELEPHONE, AND CABLE SERVICE.

MEANS OF COMMUNICATION.

Interior communication.—The vast territory of Venezuela is crossed in every direction by high roads. There are also railroads, telegraph, telephone, and mail routes which serve as efficient means of land communication.

Navigation.—Of the 1,059 rivers of Venezuela 70 are navigable and several are plied by steam and sailing vessels. The great waterway of the Orinoco is the principal means of communication by water, and its numerous affluents are utilized to a great extent likewise. Of the 204 lakes in Venezuela only Lake Maracaibo admits of steam communication to different points of its vast extension. The navigation of the Valencia Lake is carried on by small steamers, sailing vessels, and small craft.

COMMUNICATION WITH FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

Besides the coasting trade carried on by sailing vessels along the extensive shores of the Republic, comprised between the Orinoco River and Lake Maracaibo, and between some ports of Venezuela and the West Indian Islands, there are several ocean steamers which arrive at or leave the ports of the country and place it in daily communication with its seacoast and foreign countries.

Steamship lines.—There are nine steamship lines between the different ports of the Republic.

Trans-Atlantic lines.—Communication is maintained with foreign countries by means of American, British (3), French, Dutch, German, Spanish, and Italian steamship lines.

The following lines touch regularly at the Venezuelan ports:

Red "D" Line.—An American company, from New York, four times a month at La Guaira. This line transships to Maracaibo at the Dutch island of Curaçao.

The Royal Mail Steamship Company.—A British line, from Southampton, every two weeks to the island of Barbados, whence passengers and freight are transhipped to the intercolonial steamers which ply between the British West Indian Colonies and from Port of Spain, Trinidad, touch at Carúpano, La Guaira, and Puerto Cabello.

The Harrison Steamship Company.—A British line, from Liverpool, twice a month, touching at La Guaira and Puerto Cabello.

The West India and Pacific Steamship Company.—A British line, from Liverpool, twice a month, touching at La Guaira and Puerto Cabello.

Compagnie Générale Transatlantique.—A French company, from St. Nazaire and Bordeaux, twice a month at La Guaira and Carúpano; a steamer from Marseilles touches at Puerto Cabello once a month.

Koninklijke West Indische Mail Dienst.—A Dutch company, from Amsterdam, once a month at La Guaira, Carúpano, Guanta, and Puerto Cabello.

Hamburg-American Steamship Company.—A German company, twice a month at La Guaira and Puerto Cabello.

Compañía Transatlántica Española.—A Spanish company, from Barcelona, Spain, once a month at La Guaira and Puerto Cabello.

La Veloce.—An Italian company, from Genoa, once a month at La Guaira and Puerto Cabello.

Orinoco navigation.—The navigation of the Orinoco River is carried on between the Port of Spain, in the island of Trinidad, and Ciudad Bolivar, on the Orinoco River, up to San Fernando, on the Apure River. A Venezuelan company has been established and is the only one which carries on the traffic at present.

SHIPPING RETURNS, 1899-1903.

MARACAIBO, 1899.

Arrival of vessels at Maracaibo during the year ending December 31, 1899.

Nationality.	Tonnage.	Number of vessels.				
		Steamers.	Barks.	Briga.	Schooners.	Total.
British.....	5	.....	.....	.....	5
American.....	43	.....	.....	.....	43
German.....	4	2	.....	.....	6
Italian.....	1	.....	1
Norwegian.....	17	.....	.....	.....	17
Danish.....	2	.....	.....	2
Dutch.....	1	9	27	27
Brazilian.....	1	.....	1
Venezuelan.....	8	.....	.....	286	294
Total.....	25,306	77	5	11	293	295

CIUDAD BOLIVAR, 1899.

Returns of all shipping at the port of Ciudad Bolivar during the year 1899.

CLEARED.

Nationality.	Sailing.		Steam.		Total.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
British	5	400			5	400
Venezuelan	1	74	50	16,641	51	16,715
German	2	476	9	7,052	11	7,528
French			12	2,424	12	2,424
Other nationalities	1	289	3	378	4	667
Total	9	1,239	74	26,495	83	27,734
Total 1898	16	2,906	43	18,856	59	21,762

ENTERED.

Nationality.	Sailing.		Steam.		Total.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
British	5	430			5	430
Venezuelan			45	14,598	45	14,598
German	2	476	9	7,052	11	7,528
French			12	2,424	12	2,424
Other nationalities	2	363	5	630	7	993
Total	9	1,269	71	24,704	80	25,973
Total 1898	23	4,118	47	18,206	70	22,326

LA GUAIRA, 1900.

Return of shipping at the port of La Guaira during the year 1900.

ENTERED AND CLEARED.

Nationality.	Steam.	Sailing.
British	54	3
French	72	
American	48	6
Dutch	47	
German	44	1
Various	25	15
Total	290	25

PUERTO CABELLO, 1900.

Number of vessels entered from and cleared for foreign ports during the year 1900.

Nationality.	Steam.	Sailing.
British	29	1
French	61	
German	49	
Dutch	40	11
American	26	1
Norwegian	23	2
Spanish	12	
Italian	8	
Russian		4
Total	248	19

MARACAIBO, 1900.*Arrivals of vessels at Maracaibo during the year ending December 31, 1900.*

Nationality.	Steamers.	Barks.	Brigs.	Schooners.	Total.
British	4				4
American	48				48
Norwegian	14	1			15
German	2	2			4
Danish		3			3
French			1		1
Italian			1		1
Russian		1			1
Dutch			7	23	30
Brazilian			2		2
Colombian				2	2
Venezuelan	8			284	292
Total	76	7	11	309	403

CIUDAD BOLIVAR, 1900.*Return of all shipping entered at the port of Ciudad Bolivar during the year 1900.*

Nationality.	With cargo.		In ballast.		Total.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
British	3	111	3	102	6	213
Venezuelan	42	18,118	7	895	49	19,013
German	2	1,044			2	1,044
French	5	1,010	5	1,010	10	2,020
Other	2	371	4	256	6	627
Total	54	20,654	19	2,263	73	22,917
Total 1899					80	25,973

LA GUAIRA, 1901.*Number of vessels arrived at La Guaira during the year 1901.*

Nationality of vessels.	Ships.	Amount.
		<i>Kilos.</i>
German	25	8,417,500
American	43	24,562,855
Danish	3	1,161,575
Spanish	12	558,609
French	37	2,117,845
Dutch	31	8,452,653
English	64	5,471,935
Italian	10	1,134,163
Norwegian	3	1,883,688
Russian	7	3,853,143
Swedish	1	414,765
Venezuelan	4	139,226
Total	240	52,967,982

PUERTO CABELLO, 1901.*Number of vessels from foreign ports entered and cleared during the year 1901.*

Nationality.	Steam.	Sailing.
Norwegian	73	
French	61	
Dutch	47	2
British	88	1
American	25	2
Spanish	12	
Italian	9	
Russian		2
German	52	1
Total	317	8

MARACAIBO, 1901.*Arrivals of vessels at the port of Maracaibo during the year 1901.*

Nationality.	Steamers.	Barks.	Brigs.	Schooners.	Total.
American	50	.....	1	.....	51
Norwegian	11	.....	1	.....	12
Danish .....	.....	9	1	.....	10
Dutch .....	.....	1	8	16	25
Russian .....	.....	1	.....	.....	1
Venezuelan .....	.....	.....	.....	331	331
French .....	.....	.....	1	.....	1
Total	61	11	12	347	431

NOTE.—American tonnage, 44,310.

CIUDAD BOLIVAR, 1901.*Return of all shipping at the port of Ciudad Bolivar during the year 1901.*

Nationality.	Entered.						Cleared.					
	Sailing.		Steam.		Total.		Sailing.		Steam.		Total.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
British	15	1,216	1	12	16	1,228	8	969	1	12	9	981
Venezuelan	21	528	39	13,412	60	13,940	23	1,747	36	13,360	59	15,097
German	1	344	.....	.....	1	344	1	844	.....	.....	1	344
French .....	.....	.....	11	2,212	11	2,212	.....	.....	11	2,212	11	2,212
Other	7	645	.....	.....	7	645	4	278	.....	.....	4	278
Total	44	2,733	51	15,636	95	18,369	36	3,338	48	15,574	84	18,912
Total, 1900.	.....	.....	.....	.....	73	22,917	.....	.....	.....	.....	74	23,470

LA GUAIRA, 1902.*Return of shipping during the year 1902.*

Nationality.	1902.		
	Steam.	Sailing.	Freight inward.
German .....	.....	.....	Mt. tons.
American	22	.....	4,656
Spanish	36	1	11,840
French	12	.....	839
Dutch	38	.....	1,393
British	27	.....	1,269
Italian	41	1	8,496
Norwegian .....	.....	2	1,346
Russian .....	.....	9	4,851
Venezuelan .....	.....	2	1,512
.....	.....	1	11

MARACAIBO, 1902.*Arrival of vessels at the port of Maracaibo in 1902.*

Nationality.	Steamers.	Brigs.	Schooners.	Barks.	Men-of-war.	Total.
American	52	2	.....	.....	.....	54
Norwegian	4	2	.....	.....	.....	6
Danish .....	.....	.....	.....	24	.....	24
Dutch .....	.....	6	76	1	.....	82
German .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	1
Venezuelan .....	.....	.....	327	.....	22	349
Total	56	9	403	25	23	516

LA GUAIRA, 1903.^a

The following table shows the number, class, and nationality of the vessels with which the import and export trade of La Guaira was effected in 1903:

IMPORTS.

Month.	German.		American.		Spanish.		French.	
	Steam vessels.	Kilos.	Steam vessels.	Kilos.	Steam vessels.	Kilos.	Steam vessels.	Kilos.
January.....			3	1,141,574	1	156,652	1	52,329
February.....			3	980,181				
March.....	3	1,520,876	b 1	516,000	1	38,979	3	204,386
April.....	1	303,063	5	1,211,370	1	63,097	3	234,141
May.....	1	823,178	4	842,083	1	34,609	3	82,472
June.....	1	539,271	4	911,667	1	65,045	4	144,971
July.....	1	773,006	b 1	952,833	1	38,075	2	85,286
August.....	1	682,476	5	1,440,932	1	29,396	3	185,541
September.....	2	762,122	3	1,120,945	1	33,973	2	96,359
October.....	2	790,289	3	1,387,619	1	28,869	3	176,815
November.....	2	1,299,888	5	1,785,029	1	49,519	2	204,241
December.....	2	676,513	4	1,602,156	1	15,843	3	217,466
Total.....	16	7,470,671	{ 43 2 }	14,493,389	11	554,067	29	1,686,007

Month.	Dutch.		British.		Italian.		Norwegian. ^a	
	Steam vessels.	Kilos.	Steam vessels.	Kilos.	Steam vessels.	Kilos.	Steam vessels.	Kilos.
January.....			1	80,016				
February.....	1	113,121	4	164,968				
March.....	2	84,257	b 1	488,880			1	3,790
April.....	1	67,722	5	186,704				
May.....	3	258,578	7	1,660,578				
June.....	3	297,117	5	293,198				
July.....	4	370,454	b 1	377,487				
August.....	4	376,062	6	1,957,785	1	70,250	1	4,031
September.....	4	420,056	5	679,866	1	93,271		
October.....	4	552,057	6	1,158,044	1	89,918		
November.....	4	757,642	6	619,944	1	124,945		
December.....	3	686,788	b 1	350,481	1	112,635	b 3	2,454,728
Total.....	33	3,983,856	{ 54 3 }	9,320,413	5	491,019	{ 2 b 3 }	2,462,549

Month.	Russian.		Venezuelan.		Danish.		Austrian.		Total.	
	Sailing vessels.	Kilos.	Steam vessels.	Kilos.	Sailing vessels.	Kilos.	Steam vessels.	Kilos.	Steam vessels.	Kilos.
January.....										
February.....									7	1,493,692
March.....	2	1,297,179			1	449,645			17	2,747,437
April.....							1	23,712	a 5	2,751,704
May.....							1	84,564	17	2,089,799
June.....									20	3,286,062
July.....			b 1	8,901			1	180,763	18	2,251,269
August.....							1	116,223	a 3	1,777,908
September.....							1	168,104	23	4,862,646
October.....			{ 1 b 1 }	267 238			1	121,284	19	3,376,688
November.....									22	4,306,162
December.....	1	481,009	b 1	9,000			2	137,663	a 1	28
Total..	3	1,778,188	{ 1 b 3 }	18,406	1	449,645	8	832,313	202 a 15	43,540,513

^a Data from the La Guaira Harbor Corporation Co.

^b Sailing vessels.

	Kilos.
For La Guaira	41, 488, 813
In transit for Ciudad Bolívar.....	2, 051, 700
Total	43, 540, 513

EXPORTS.

Month.	Ameri- can (steam)	Ger- man (steam)	Span- ish (steam)	French (steam)	Dutch (steam)	British (steam)	Italian (steam)	Aus- trian (steam)	Vene- zuelan (sail).
January									
February	1	1	1	2	1	1			
March	2	1	1	8	2	2			
April	5	2	1	2	2	2			1
May	4	2	1	4	8	8		1	2
June	5	1	1	3	4	2			
July	4	1	1	3	8	8		2	1
August	3	2	1	3	4	2			1
September	5	2	1	2	4	1	1		3
October	4	2	1	2	4	2		1	
November	5	2	1	2	4	3			2
December	5	2	1	4	8	2	1		1
Total	43	18	11	30	34	23	2	4	10

Month.	Coffee.	Cacao.	Hides.	Sundries.	Total.		Total.
					Steam.	Sail.	
	Kilos.	Kilos.	Kilos.	Kilos.			Kilos.
January							
February	1, 612, 086	515, 535	123, 607	95, 548	7		2, 246, 685
March	1, 441, 861	818, 914	89, 335	29, 442	11		2, 379, 552
April	1, 248, 972	513, 471	100, 887	23, 812	14	1	1, 887, 142
May	1, 476, 774	1, 318, 502	106, 834	36, 227	18	2	2, 938, 337
June	859, 857	1, 163, 075	93, 704	19, 760	16		2, 136, 396
July	468, 782	781, 218	73, 769	14, 796	17		1, 338, 565
August	662, 524	438, 156	65, 775	23, 525	15	1	1, 189, 990
September	272, 983	311, 061	226, 132	140, 238	16	3	960, 414
October	338, 774	69, 786	130, 373	176, 207	16		715, 140
November	270, 269	200, 369	182, 304	139, 549	17	2	792, 491
December	507, 068	188, 140	299, 224	198, 152	18	1	1, 187, 584
Total	9, 059, 959	6, 318, 227	1, 491, 844	892, 256	165	10	17, 762, 286

	Kilos.
From La Guaira	16, 632, 414
In transit for Ciudad Bolívar.....	1, 129, 872
Total	17, 762, 286

CONCESSION FOR THE NAVIGATION OF THE ORINOCO RIVER.

The Congress of the United States of Venezuela decrees:

Sole article. The contract made on March 28 of the present year between the National Executive and Gen. Manuel Corao for the establishment of a line of steamers to run on the Orinoco and its affluents and subaffluents, and which are named in the following contract, is hereby approved:

"The minister of interior relations of the United States of Venezuela, thereto authorized by the Citizen Constitutional President of the Republic, of the one part, and of the other Angel María Corao, under power of attorney from Gen. Manuel Corao, and on his behalf, have entered into the following contract:

"ART. 1. Angel María Corao, as the representative and the constituted attorney of Gen. Manuel Corao, hereinafter called the con-

tractor, undertakes to establish within six months, counted from the date at which this contract begins to take effect, a line of steamers for navigation on the Orinoco and its affluents and subaffluents, the Apure, Meta, Arauca, Apurito, Caura, Masparro, Portuguesa, and Cojedes. The steamers of this line may extend their service to the port of La Guaira.

"ART. 2. The contractor engages to maintain a constant shipping service according to the itinerary and tariffs agreed upon beforehand with the National Government.

"ART. 3. The contractor undertakes to effect on the rivers, which come within the line of navigation he may establish, all the necessary dredging and canalization for the better service of the public, without having at any time any claim for compensation for this work.

"ART. 4. The ships of the line shall sail under the Venezuelan flag and shall touch at Trinidad or Curacao to take provisions and coal.

"ART. 5. The points at which the ships of the line are to call shall, as mentioned above, be fixed by agreement with the Federal Executive, but there shall be no objection to their calling at other points not specified after previous notice, to be given by the contractor.

"ART. 6. The National Government shall enjoy a rebate of 50 per cent of the passenger and freight tariffs; and the troops and officers whom the Government may embark on the ships of the line shall pay only a third part of the tariff price.

"ART. 7. When the Federal Executive deems fit he shall appoint Government inspectors to superintend the service of the line, and the contractor shall give the said employees all necessary cooperation for the better discharge of their duties, and to take them on board the steamers as first-class passengers without expense to the Government.

"ART. 8. The contractor undertakes to carry all correspondence, and when, owing to public disturbances, the Government is under the necessity of transporting troops on the ships of the line they shall perform this service in preference to any other, and shall likewise perform with preference any other commission or order of the Government.

"ART. 9. The contractor undertakes to keep in active service at least two steamers which shall touch at least once a month at the various points of the itinerary of the line.

"ART. 10. The National Government authorizes the ships of the line to navigate by all the mouths of the Orinoco, especially by those of Macareo and Pedernales.

"ART. 11. The ships of the line shall be exempt from all national contributions.

"ART. 12. The employees of the line shall be exempt from military service, except in case of international war.

"ART. 13. The Federal Executive shall exempt from the payment of custom import duties all materials, effects, and articles which the



"LA TOMA" BRIDGE OVER THE NARICUAL RIVER, GUANTA AND NARICUAL RAILWAY.
(Photograph by V. Amato, Barcelona, Venezuela.)

contractor may require for the establishment and needs of the line of steamships, but in every case the contractor shall inform the Department of Finance beforehand what are the articles which he wishes to import, and that department, with due knowledge, shall issue the respective orders.

"ART. 14. The ships of the line may take from the national forests such wood as may be required, whether for fuel or for any other use, but in no case to carry on traffic with it.

"ART. 15. This contract is exonerated from the payment of registry dues.

"ART. 16. The duration of this contract shall be fifteen years from the date on which the President of the Union signs the decree of the National Congress approving this contract, and during that lapse of time the National Government shall not make any like or similar concessions to any person or company for the establishment of lines of navigation between the points comprised in the present contract.

"ART. 17. This contract shall not be transferred, either wholly or in part, to any person or company of foreign nationality. The contractor may transfer all or any of the rights which he acquires only to persons or companies of Venezuelan nationality, after the approval of the transfer by the National Executive.

"ART. 18. All doubts and controversies of any nature whatsoever which may arise under this contract, and which can not be decided amicably by the contracting parties, shall be decided by the competent tribunals of Venezuela, in conformity with its laws, and shall not, for any motive or cause whatsoever, be the occasion of a foreign claim."

Made in duplicate, at Caracas, this 28th day of March, 1904.

LA GUAIRA HARBOR CORPORATION.^a

This corporation was registered in 1885 to take over a concession granted by the Venezuelan Government; the authorized capital was fixed at £400,000, in £20 shares, all of which have been subscribed for and paid up. Debenture capital was issued as follows: £300,000 7 per cent first debenture stock, and £395,910 7 per cent second debenture stock. Late in 1896 a rearrangement scheme, which included the funding of interest in arrears, was agreed upon, under which the debenture capital was altered, so that there is now outstanding £397,000 (part of an authorized £420,000) 5 per cent first mortgage irredeemable debenture stock, and £578,289 (part of an authorized £600,000) 5 per cent noncumulative second mortgage debenture stock. The corporation is free from State and municipal taxation and holds its concession exclusive from competition for ninety-nine years. Since the rearrangement of the debenture capital in 1896 the full interest has always

^a Abstract from the South American Journal, April 30, 1904.

been paid on the first debentures, which require £19,850 a year, but on these second debentures only three-fourths of 1 per cent was paid for 1897, 2 per cent for 1898, 1 per cent for 1899, $1\frac{1}{4}$ per cent for 1900, three-fourths per cent for 1901, and none for 1902, a debit balance at the end of that year of £5,842 being carried forward. As regards the earnings the following table gives statistics for ten years, those for 1903 being estimated:

Year.	Gross receipts.	Working expenses.	Net receipts.	Ratio of working.	Dividend on second debentures.
				Per cent.	Per cent.
1902 ^a	£57,000	£27,000	£30,000	47	1
1902.....	42,288	28,849	13,989	56	.....
1901.....	53,325	30,788	22,542	48	.....
1900.....	52,208	28,835	23,868	41	$1\frac{1}{4}$
1899.....	55,778	31,317	24,466	48	1
1898.....	63,277	31,779	31,498	45	2
1897.....	60,409	36,896	23,513	64	.....
1896.....	71,613	41,804	29,809	58	.....
1895.....	66,655	36,614	29,041	49	.....
1894.....	66,940	48,572	28,368	55	.....

^a Estimated.

From January 1 to April 9, 1904, the gross receipts were £27,450, and the net, at about £15,900, gave an average of about £1,000 per week.

The following table gives comparative quotations:

	Outstanding amount.	Quotations.						Present (1904).
		1901.		1902.		1903.		
		High- est.	Low- est.	High- est.	Low- est.	High- est.	Low- est.	
Ordinary £20 shares.....	£400,000							
5 per cent first mortgage debentures.....	397,000	79½	66½	73½	66½	81½	65½	84
5 per cent second debenture stock.....	578,289	22½	17	17	14	21	16½	27

LA GUAIRA WHARFAGE DUES.

LA GUAIRA HARBOR CORPORATION PASSENGER TARIFF.

Passengers embarking or disembarking for any port when the ship moors to the wharf and no boats are used, for each person.....	^a \$2
Passengers landed or brought on board, each person.....	3
Luggage for or from foreign countries, for every 100 kilos.....	2
Luggage from or for Venezuelan ports, for every 100 kilos.....	1
Lowest price.....	1
A passenger who hires a boat for his exclusive use.....	18
Freight of a canoe with not more than 8 passengers and their luggage.....	32
A boat must not carry more than 4 passengers. Persons accompanying passengers to and from vessels pay.....	3

The foregoing tariff includes the carriage of luggage to the custom-house.

^a United States currency.

No boatman or carrier of luggage has authority to collect money on behalf of the corporation.

Passengers are requested to ask for a receipt of any sum paid.

IMPORT AND EXPORT TARIFF.

FOREIGN.

^a Bolivars.

Merchandise, provisions, hardware, luggage, staple, and other products, per 100 kilos.....	2. 00
Machines, packages, or pieces weighing more than 2,000 kilos.. per 100 kilos..	4. 00
Coal and other minerals.....do.....	. 50
Lumber.....do.....	2. 00
Live animals, excepting cattle and horses.....each..	1. 00
Live horned cattle.....do.....	2. 50
Live horses or mules.....do.....	3. 00
Passengers without distinction and without luggage.....do.....	2. 00

COASTWISE.

Merchandise, provisions, hardware, luggage, staple, and other products, per 100 kilos.....	1. 00
Coal and other minerals, lumber.....per 100 kilos..	. 50

LA GUAIRA WATER DUES.

A copy of an ordinance to regulate the payment of water dues at the port of La Guaira by all steamers and sailing vessels, abrogating a previous ordinance of April 4, 1900, has been issued.

The most important articles of the ordinance are as follows:

ARTICLE 1. All merchant steamers that enter this port, wherever they come from, whether or not taking a supply of water, but receiving cargo or passengers, will pay to the administration of municipal revenue the sum of 140 bolivars.

ART. 2. Merchant steamers from Europe and the United States that leave for other ports and return to proceed to their port of destination will pay for each return, 140 bolivars.

Merchant steamers that leave this port, and do not return to it to proceed on their voyage to a foreign port from whence they came, will pay 240 bolivars.

ART. 3. Sailing vessels in the foreign trade with this port will also pay for water dues 1 bolivar for each Venezuelan ton of their measurement.

WHARF IMPROVEMENTS AT PUERTO CABELLO.

The United States consul at Puerto Cabello reported that extensive improvements had been completed at the wharf in that city. The wharf is built of iron, covered with 10-centimeter plank, and has over 600 meters frontage on the harbor, with an average depth of water

^a 1 Bolivar = 19.3 cents U. S. currency.

along its entire front of 8 meters. The consul asserts that the Puerto Cabello Harbor is the best in Venezuela. It is over 90 meters wide at its narrowest point, and its depth is from 6 to 18 meters. The custom-houses, offices, sheds, etc., and the tracks of the steam and tram railways adjoin the wharf, and the city water mains extend along its south side. Ships have little difficulty in taking water and unloading or loading cargo at any point along its front. The cargoes are rapidly handled by experienced native laborers.

PUERTO CABELLO HARBOR REGULATIONS.

GOVERNMENT REGULATIONS FOR THE HARBOR AND WHARVES OF PUERTO CABELLO.

[Enacted in 1899.]

ARTICLE 1. All vessels coming from foreign ports are required to wait in the bay for the health officer's visit, after which they may or may not enter, as the captain of the port may decide, in accordance with the law.

ART. 2. It is forbidden, under fines and penalties which shall be established, for all craft to go near or alongside of vessels which anchor in the port previous to the health officer's visit.

ART. 3. Any vessel which anchors in the bay of this port is considered as having entered, and is consequently bound to receive the visit of the health officer and of the custom-house officials, without which she can not land passengers or anything whatever.

ART. 4. Vessels which, by order of the sanitary board, are to remain under observation shall hoist at their topmasts a yellow flag; and this will be the signal for all craft to keep aloof from them and not to go near without previous permission of the captain of the port.

ART. 5. No vessel having on board powder, dynamite, or other explosive substances of like nature shall enter the harbor until after the competent authorities have taken the necessary measures of security for the landing of said cargo without danger.

ART. 6. After the visits of the health officer and of the custom-house officials, and on the vessel being admitted to port, the captain of the port shall point out the place where she is to land her cargo.

ART. 7. Steamships or sailing vessels which are loading or unloading must withdraw from the wharves daily at 6 p. m. and stay until 6 a. m. at a distance of at least 6 meters. Only by express permission of the captain of the port shall this order be dispensed with.

ART. 8. After the vessel has landed her cargo she shall remove from the wharves and cast her anchors at the place which shall be designated to her for the purpose by the captain of the port.

ART. 9. All vessels anchored in the port are required to have suf-

ficient moorings for their own security and for the safety of their neighbors.

ART. 10. It is forbidden to stretch ropes from one vessel to another in the port unless absolutely necessary when the steamers shall take care to keep always, by day and by night, a sailor on guard to lower them when necessary, and they shall be held responsible for any damage occurring from the nonfulfillment of this rule.

ART. 11. All vessels in port must have during the night a globular light at their fore-topmasts, at a height of 6 meters from the level of the gunwale.

ART. 12. No vessel is allowed to throw overboard in the port sweepings or rubbish without first obtaining the necessary permission from the captain of the port, showing how and where it should be done.

ART. 13. The captains are required to keep order on board of their vessels; and they shall prevent any disturbance, scandal, or quarrel which may arise, and should their authority not be sufficient they may ask for help from the office of the captain of the port.

ART. 14. Captains of vessels in port are obliged to give each other all possible assistance in case of any serious accident of whatever nature.

ART. 15. No vessel once anchored is allowed to change her anchor ground without previously asking for and obtaining permission from the captain of the port, who shall grant it when there is a just cause.

ART. 16. No captain is allowed to overhaul his vessel inside the harbor without permission from the captain of the port, who shall point out the place where this operation is to be performed.

ART. 17. It is absolutely forbidden to boil pitch, tar, or rosin on board of vessels lying in port. The captain of the port may give permission for such operations when needful, and designate in each case where they should be performed.

ART. 18. Sailors on guard shall notify their chiefs immediately if they notice any removal of anchors or buoy ropes or robbery of goods or other effects on the wharves or on board of any vessel.

ART. 19. It is not allowed to take ballast without permission of the captain of the port and previous to taking the precautions determined by law for such cases, so as not to obstruct the anchorage.

ART. 20. Vessels which carry on board a fire engine must keep it in perfect condition and ready for use in case of need.

ART. 21. No guns or other arms shall be fired in the port without express permission of the captain of the port.

ART. 22. Captains of vessels lying in the port are required to hoist their respective flags on Sunday and on all other holidays prescribed by the law.

ART. 23. No vessel can leave the port after 6 p. m. without permission of the competent authorities.

ART. 24. The entrance into the port must always be free to the vessels which enter and leave; consequently, it is strictly forbidden to anchor in a place which obstructs the traffic.

ART. 25. Should a vessel on leaving the port cause any damage to another one, she is obliged to immediately drop her anchor and await the result of the summary investigation which shall be made to determine the culpability of the case, in accordance with the maritime laws; and should she continue her voyage before the judgment of the captain of the port, in the terms prescribed, she will be held culpable, guilty and confessed, and absolutely responsible for the damage done. But should the investigation be protracted on account of the circumstances of the case, she may leave the place, giving bail satisfactory to the captain of the port to answer for all damages and fines.

ART. 26. For loading and discharging, the following order shall be observed: The vessel which enters port first (without regard to flag) shall discharge first, and the others successively in order of entry; and for loading, the one which finishes unloading first shall be the first to reload, and the same order shall be continued; provided, however, that the wharves are not occupied by vessels unloading, as this last operation has the preference.

Steamers shall have the preference over sailing vessels in both cases, and postal steamers over all others.

ART. 27. A vessel which enters in a damaged condition and requires to be unloaded at once shall be attended to with due regard to the urgency of the case.

ART. 28. Vessels anchored in the bay which need to send a boat on shore or vice versa after 6 p. m. shall provide such craft with a light.

ART. 29. Owners and consignees of goods can not leave on the wharves merchandise of any kind without previous permission of the collector of the custom-house and captain of the port, with exception of mineral coal, which may remain on the place designated for that purpose.

ART. 30. No captain shall admit on board of his vessel sailors enlisted in the service of other vessels and who have received their pay in advance.

ART. 31. Captains of foreign vessels are not allowed to discharge men of their crew except for justified reasons, and always subject to the consent of the captain of the port.

ART. 32. The difficulties which may arise on board of the vessels lying in this port from collections of wages, illtreatment, or other causes, shall be adjusted before the captain of the port, to whom the interested party shall apply at any hour, day or night, according to the gravity of the case.

ART. 33. All officials of the wharves, revenue officers, or inspectors in the service of the National Government shall strictly enforce the orders of the captain of the port as expressed in these regulations.

ART. 34. The failure to comply with any of the instructions comprised in this regulation, and which does not call for any other proceeding, shall render offenders liable to fines of from 100 to 200 bolivars or to arrest and imprisonment in the public jail in accordance with the law, according to the judgment of the captain of the port.

ART. 35. The fines established in the preceding article shall be paid to the treasury of the custom-house by order of the collector of the port.

ART. 36. Captains, owners, or consignees of national and foreign vessels which anchor in this port, as also masters of canoes, lighters, boats, and craft of all descriptions, are obliged to provide themselves with a printed copy of these regulations, so that they may not allege ignorance of the duties imposed upon them. The cost of the regulations shall be 2 bolivars each copy, which shall be applied to the printing of the same.

ART. 37. Against all the decisions of the captain of the port which refer to the fines mentioned in article 34 of these regulations, an appeal can be made to the department of war and marine.

ART. 38. The harbor regulations issued by this office under date of March 31, 1875, are hereby annulled, and the present ones shall enter into force from the date of promulgation.

NOTE.—Special attention of the captains of vessels which enter into this port is called to the three buoys placed to protect the submarine cable existing between this port and that of La Guaira. They are placed in a parallel line with the coast to the south, at an approximate distance of 400 meters from the point called "La Garita," in the direction toward the island of Goaguaza. These buoys are painted red and are of ellipsoid shape, crowned by a visible point, formed with the letters C. F.

MARACAIBO HARBOR IMPROVEMENTS.

Nothing could be more conducive to the rapid progress of Maracaibo and of the section of which it is the metropolis than a safe channel to the city's wharves for vessels of heavy draft. The limit is now 3 meters 20 centimeters. The harbor of Maracaibo and works will give much greater facilities to shipping. A sea wall of concrete has taken the place of the old beach, and an additional mole has been extended into the lake, with the object of permitting vessels to load and discharge directly thereon, thus doing away with the necessity of light-erage. The interior navigation of the lake and its tributary rivers is active and increasing in importance every year. Scarcely a day passes that steamers engaged in this trade do not arrive or depart, besides which there are many sailing vessels constantly employed.

MARACAIBO WHARFAGE CHARGES.

Importation.—For receiving at the wharf, conveying to the custom-house, storing in its warehouses, transferring to the examining room, weighing, conveying to commercial establishments, and stowing all merchandise and products coming from foreign ports and national ports outside of Lake Maracaibo, 1.20 bolivars (23 cents) shall be charged for each 100 kilos (220.46 pounds) gross weight.

For receiving and forwarding at the wharf, conveying to the commercial house, and there stowing all merchandise, produce, and other articles proceeding from the ports of Lake Maracaibo and its tributary rivers, 65 centimes (12 cents) shall be charged for each 100 kilos (220.46 pounds) gross weight.

Exportation.—For receiving at a commercial house, conveying to the wharf, weighing and storing there all merchandise, produce, and articles intended for foreign ports or national ones outside of Lake Maracaibo, 65 centimes (12 cents) shall be charged for every 100 kilos (220.46 pounds) gross weight.

Imports in transit to Colombia.—For receiving at the wharf, conveying to the custom-house, weighing and examining, and stowing in the transit warehouse all merchandise, produce, and other articles received from any port, 90 centimes (17 cents) shall be charged for every 100 kilos (220.46 pounds) gross weight.

For transferring from the transit warehouses of the custom-house to the wharf, and there stowing, any of the above-mentioned articles, 30 centimes (5 cents) for every 100 kilos (220.46 pounds) gross weight.

Baggage.—For receiving at the wharf, conveying to the custom-house, and from there to the owner's house, the tariff on baggage shall be as follows: For each parcel weighing up to 20 kilos, 50 centimes; weighing from 21 to 70 kilos, 1 bolivar; weighing from 71 to 100 kilos, 2 bolivars. Baggage weighing over 100 kilos shall pay at the rate of 50 centimes for every 50 kilos of excess, all gross weight.

The above-mentioned rates shall be charged on baggage which is to be taken to places situated within the city. When taken outside of the city limits the price of cartage shall be arranged with the owner.

Should owners or consignees of goods prefer not to employ wharf laborers in conveying their imported and exported cargoes or baggage (after they have passed through the custom-house), the company will charge one-half of the corresponding tariff on their goods.

When the owners or consignees, with the consent of the national government or custom-house authorities, transship any of their merchandise, produce, or other goods, the company shall always charge one-half of the respective taxes. Small fruits, natural wood, horns, bones and hoofs, bark, seeds, and dyewood are excepted.

The owners, consignees, or shippers of wood, bark, seeds, horns, bones, etc., imported from Lake Maracaibo or its tributary rivers and intended for export to a foreign port or other national ports outside of the lake, are not bound to employ the wharf laborers for the transportation of these goods.

When the wharf laborers perform work not covered by this tariff the price for said work shall be previously agreed upon between the interested party and the administrator of the company.

In order to avoid difficulties in the liquidation and computation of accounts, all imported or exported goods of less than 100 kilos in weight shall be considered as of 100 kilos.

RECORD OF VESSELS.

The following resolution was issued on August 14, 1900, regarding the obligatory record of vessels in the Republic:

ARTICLE I. All captains of vessels are under the obligation to present themselves, within thirty days, at the custom-house of the port at which they have landed with the vessel under their command to be inscribed, giving the name of the vessel, nationality, tonnage, and owner's name.

ART. II. The collector of customs shall record the vessels belonging to his jurisdiction, and shall transmit a copy of the record to the minister of finance and to the Bank of Venezuela.

ART. III. In order to compile the statistics of vessels in the Republic and to prevent confusion arising from two or more of these bearing the same name, the collectors are authorized to list them by stamping on the timbers the corresponding number, as well as the name of the vessel.

ART. IV. When through illness or any other justified cause a captain can not, or does not, desire to navigate for a certain time he will appoint a substitute and the collector of customs will inform the minister of finance, who will have the name of the proxy published in the Official Gazette.

ART. V. Captains of vessels are under the obligation to present to the respective collector of customs their certificate of navigation (*Patente de Navegación*) at the foot of which the said collector of customs shall certify the name of the captain, that of the vessel, date of presentation, and number corresponding thereto in the record.

OFFICIAL REGULATIONS FOR EXTRA LABOR AT PORTS OF ENTRY.

Hitherto, owing to the regulations to which mail steamers with a fixed time-table were subject at the ports of the Republic, and which were all more or less vexatious, burdensome, and opposed to the

development of commerce with Venezuela, ships found it almost impossible to unload and leave these ports on the day of their arrival. This difficulty has now been overcome by the following resolution framed by the minister of finance on June 3, and amended June 19, 1901:

“Whereas the agents of foreign steamers which touch at Venezuelan ports have appealed to this department, setting forth the great inconveniences, difficulties, and damages to which steamers having a fixed time-table are subject, when they have to enter and leave on the same day, owing to the lack of sufficient time for being dispatched and leaving the port, being obliged in such case to ask the customs authorities to allow the officers of the department to work extra hours in order to complete the work, for which, in many instances, they are made to pay such exorbitant sums as to give rise to disagreements and unpleasantness between the customs officials and the agents of the said ships; and whereas this is due to the fact that the tariff which should be charged for such services as should be rendered after office hours on working days is not fixed; and whereas this matter has been brought to the notice of the President of the Republic, he, in his desire to afford foreign steamship enterprises which touch at our ports the utmost facilities for dispatch, as is required by the daily increasing trade between Venezuela and foreign countries, and in exercise of the power conferred on him by decree of the National Constituent Assembly of March 28, 1901, has ordered:

“That the loading and unloading of steamships which have a fixed schedule shall be made through the custom-houses of the Republic between 7 a. m. and 11 a. m. and 12 m. and 4.30 p. m.; and that when these ships are compelled to work overtime (to 5.30 p. m.) in order to leave on the same day, the customs authorities shall afford them half an hour additional time, and in this case the agents of the said steamships shall pay to the officers who have rendered their services after office hours the sums set out below, equivalent to one day's salary of each officer necessary for the performance of the work of the customs:

	Bolivars.	United States equivalent.
At the ports of La Guaira and Puerto Cabello.....	150	\$28.95
At Maracaibo and Cardano.....	125	24.13
At the other custom-houses.....	100	19.30

“These sums shall be distributed by the collectors of the customs among the officials whose services were necessary for the performance of the work done by the steamers during the time the custom-houses were kept open after office hours at their request.”

BAGGAGE REGULATIONS.

As it frequently happens that passengers arriving at Venezuelan ports from abroad have trouble respecting their baggage, the collector of customs at the port of Maracaibo has published extracts from the law upon the subject, defining also what may be properly considered as baggage, namely:

“ART. 54. The following will be considered as baggage: Clothing, shoes, bed, saddle, arms, professional instruments, and other articles already used, which are clearly for the personal use of the passenger, presented by him to the custom-house. Furniture, though already used, will not be considered as baggage, and will pay the corresponding duties, with discount for wear, estimated by the inspectors in union with an expert appointed by the party interested.

“ART. 55. Passengers may not bring among their baggage foreign effects which have not been used the duties upon which may exceed 500 bolivars (\$96.50), and should they exceed this sum the goods which cause the excess shall be seized, although they may have been duly manifested. Passengers bringing among their baggage unused foreign effects within the limits of the maximum allowed by this article should declare them to the custom-house before the inspection of the baggage, and pay corresponding duties. Should the goods not be manifested before inspection, duties thereon will be paid and the goods declared contraband.

“ART. 57. Baggage embarked in the West Indies must be weighed and examined in the section devoted to inspection by the chiefs of the custom-house, assisted by the commandant of the coast guard and the official weigher, having at sight the manifest, signed by the consul, which must be presented by passengers. Should this manifest of baggage not be presented or received at the custom-house, a fine of from 125 to 1,000 bolivars (\$24.13 to \$193), according to the judgment of the inspectors, will be imposed, and the unused goods will be declared contraband.”

RAILROADS.^a

The immense watershed of the Orinoco, with its numerous navigable affluents, affords ample means of communication in the southern part of Venezuela. Therefore railroad lines are located to the north and center of the Republic.

Different railways.—The following tables, compiled from the official railway maps and documents issued by the public works department of Venezuela, show the different railway lines in operation and give all the details concerning them.

^aSee railway map, compiled from the different official railway maps of Venezuela.

Railway lines in operation.

Name of railway.	Length of line.	Gauge.	Maximum grade.	Minimum radius of curves.	Bridges and viaducts.	Tunnels.	Stations.	Date of contract.	Capital of company.
	<i>Kms.</i>	<i>Meters.</i>	<i>Per cent.</i>	<i>Meters.</i>					
Puerto Cabello and Valencia	54	1.07	b 8	95	28	1	6	May 15, 1882	a \$4,141,006
Great Valencia	179	1.07	2	75	212	86	25	July 8, 1887	15,000,000
La Guaira and Caracas	36½	.915	4	43	10	8	9	Apr. 18, 1891	4,175,000
Guanta and Naticual	36½	1.07	1.50	200	4	5	5	Oct. 22, 1880	300,000
Carenero and Guapo	38	.915	2	100	57	5	5	Apr. 18, 1896	1,570,800
Malquetia and Macuto	8	.915	2	100	8	4	4	Apr. 18, 1896	100,000
Caracas and El Valle	4	.63	3.50	40	4	7	7	Nov. 10, 1895	67,200
Central	d 36	1.07	4	50	23	14	7	Aug. 14, 1898	3,484,500
Great La Ceiba	90	.915	2	75	43	5	5	May 17, 1880	1,600,000
Southwestern	88	.61	3.50	45.73	31	11	11	Apr. 18, 1896	2,777,500
La Vela and Coro	13½	.915	70	117	8	3	3	Dec. 12, 1892	206,000
Bolivar	88½	.61	2 to 3.50	36.90	134	9	9	Oct. 15, 1873	3,136,575
Santa Bárbara and Vigía	60	1	2	100	37	3	3	Apr. 18, 1896	600,000
Great Táchira	e 115	1.07	.95	75	3	13	13	Dec. 31, 1892	1,500,000
Total (14 railways)	842				593	109	106		38,659,575

Name of railway.	Management.		Material.		Rollingstock.			Fuel.	Freight tariff.
	Local.	In Europe.	Weight of rails per meter.	Sleepers.	Locomotives.	Passenger cars.	Freight cars.		
Puerto Cabello and Valencia.	Valencia ...	60 New Bond street, London E. C.	Klgs. 27.2	Wood...	9	13	45	Coal briquets.	1 cent per ton and kilometer.
Great Valencia..	Caracas.....	Unter den Linden 53, Berlin.	25.7	Metallic	18	33	153	.....do.....	Do.
La Guaira and Caracas.	.....do.....	60 New Bond street, London E. C.	25.5	...do....	18	24	123	.....do....	\$6 per ton going up; \$3 per ton going down.
Guanta and Nari- cual.	Guanta.....		20	Wood...	2	10	77	.....do....	\$5 per ton to Barcelona.
Carenero and Guapo.	Carenero.....		22	...do....	4	5	34	.....do....	\$10 per ton.
Malquetia and Macuto.	Macuto.....			...do....	2	10		Cardiff coal.	
Caracas and El Valle.	Caracas.....			...do....	3	8		.....do....	
Central.....	.....do.....	130 New Bond street, London E. C.	21	Metallic	5	9	31	.....do....	1 cent per ton and kilometer.
Great La Ceiba..	Maracaibo..		14-20	Wood...	6	4	17	Wood.....	24 to 40 cents per ton and kilometer.
Southwestern ...	Aroa.....	34 Nicolas Lane, London E. C.	20	Metallic	4	4	46	Coal.....	
La Vela and Coro.	Coro.....		16	Wood...	2			.....do....	
Bolivar.....	Aroa.....	34 Nicolas Lane, London E. C.	24	Metallic	9	5	328	.....do....	
Santa Bárbara and Vigía.									
Great Táchira ...	Maracaibo..			Wood...	5	5	34	Wood.....	24 cents per ton and kilometer.

a United States currency, taking five bolivars as equivalent to the United States dollar.

b Cog-wheel system 4 kilometers long.

c New.

d To Los Monos.

e To Uracá.

Railway lines.—As will be seen by the foregoing table, there are 14 different railway lines, with an aggregate capital of \$38,659,575 American gold.

Railway mileage.—The aggregate mileage of these 14 railway lines is 842 kilometers.

Stations, tunnels, viaducts.—The aggregate number of stations is 105, that of tunnels 109, and that of viaducts 593, the Great Valencia Railway alone having 212 viaducts and 86 tunnels.

Rolling stock.—By the end of 1903 the data available show that the aggregate number of locomotives in operation was 87, that of passenger cars 120, and that of freight cars 588.

Caracas and La Guaira Railway.—This line puts in communication a center of over 100,000 inhabitants with its principal port and carries all the traffic of the capital and of the railroads which have there their terminus.

The report of the La Guaira and Caracas Railway Company for the year 1900 shows that the gross revenue was £68,381 and that the working expenses amounted to the sum of £40,757. As compared with the figures for 1899 the gross revenue shows a decrease of £6,903 and the working expenses a decrease of £1,924. The directors propose to transfer from the reserve account the sum of £3,890 and to pay a dividend for the year 1900 at the rate of 4 per cent. The decrease of £6,903 in the traffic receipts was attributable as to £4,887 to a diminution in earnings from goods and as to £2,579 to a falling off in passenger travel, while sundry receipts showed an increase of £562.

The report for the year 1903 states that the gross revenue was £61,433, and the working expenses amounted to £38,175. As compared with 1902 the gross revenue shows an increase of £4,877 and the working expenses a decrease of £463. The balance of revenue account, including interest and transfer fees, etc., amounts to £24,158, from which is deducted the debit balance from 1902, debenture interest, loss on exchange, etc., leaving a balance at credit of net revenue on December 31 of £4,517. The directors propose to pay a dividend at the rate of 1 per cent for the year, absorbing £3,500, and to add to improvement and renewal account the sum of £1,000, leaving £17 to be carried forward. At the meeting of June 2, 1904, a report was adopted of which the following is an abstract:^a The expenses in the two years—1902 and 1903—were practically the same. The line had been kept in a proper state of repair, and some alterations and improvements had been effected. After making all deductions there remained a balance at net revenue account of £4,517, out of which it was proposed to pay a dividend of 1 per cent, absorbing £3,500, to

^aSouth American Journal, June 4, 1904.

place £1,000 to the credit of the improvement and renewal fund, and to carry forward the small surplus of £17.

The net result of the working of the line for the first four months of 1904 was an amount of £15,250, against £5,000 for the corresponding period of 1903. The Anglo-Venezuelan Mixed Commission had given an award in favor of the company for £9,725. There was practically no dispute as to the amount, and, probably, had there been no commission it would have been acknowledged and paid by the Government in the usual way. It did not have to go before the umpire, because the British commissioner and the Venezuelan commissioner agreed that the sum was due. The board hoped that before long the company would receive a considerable payment on account of the award and that the rest would be paid within a reasonable period.

The following table gives the heights above the sea level of the stations of the Caracas and La Guaira Railway.

Station.	Heights above sea level.		Station.	Heights above sea level.	
	<i>Meters.</i>	<i>Fect.</i>		<i>Meters.</i>	<i>Fect.</i>
La Guaira	1. 82	6	Peña de Moro	698. 21	2, 295
Malquetia	15. 24	50	Ojo de Agua	690. 67	2, 267
Rincón	91. 44	300	Cantinas	894. 53	2, 933
Tunnel No. 1	203. 91	669	El Chorro	881. 18	2, 892
Curucuti	600. 76	1, 971	Catia	954. 98	3, 135
Tunnel No. 2	401. 11	1, 316	Agua Salud	919. 89	3, 020
Zig-Zag	467. 25	1, 533	Caracas	909. 02	2, 984
Boquerón	618. 12	2, 029			

Great Valencia Railway.—The great line of Caracas to Valencia, through La Victoria, Cagua, and Maracay, crosses the most populous rural districts of the Republic. This line runs along the high mountain slopes of Las Mostazas and reaches the fertile valleys of Aragua and of the Lake of Valencia, and is bound to become of great importance in the near future. It carries to Caracas and to Valencia the numerous products of the neighboring plantations and those brought through the Valencia Lake and from the plains (llanos) by way of Cagua, Villa de Cura, and Calabozo.

According to the original contract the Government engaged to pay 7 per cent on £12,800 per kilometer of the first section (Caracas-Cagua). In 1888 the Grosse Eisenbahn-actien Gesellschaft was established with a capital of \$2,500,000, aided by the Diskonto Gesellschaft, of Berlin, and the Norddeutsche Bank, of Hamburg. In 1891 a new contract was granted, according to which the Government engaged to pay 7 per cent on £11,000 per kilometer of line. On February 1, 1894, when the line was inaugurated, the company claimed \$1,114,703 for the Valencia-Cagua section, \$578,525 for the Caracas-Cagua section, and \$366,800 for alleged damages. In 1894 a new agreement was concluded, and a considerable part of the claims was settled by arbi-

tration. In 1896, according to another agreement, the Diskonto Gesellschaft, of Berlin, issued a Venezuelan loan of \$10,000,000, bearing 5 per cent, with 1 per cent sinking fund, the loan to be issued at 80 per cent of par and the Government to appropriate \$600,000 per annum for the service of the loan. Of this loan \$7,200,000 in bonds were handed over to the railroad company in full settlement of all claims. Arrears of settlement, due to a certain extent to fortuitous circumstances and to superior force and, above all, misunderstandings of a serious nature, brought the matter to a climax when Germany formed part of the naval military demonstration which took place in 1903.

This railroad company, with an invested capital of about \$15,000,000, has been able to distribute in 1896 a dividend of 1 per cent, in 1897 2 per cent, and in 1898, 1899, and 1900 one-half per cent after seven years of exploitation.

Puerto Cabello and Valencia Railway.—This line runs from the port to the second city of Venezuela, which is a terminus of the roads leading to the sugar region of Nirgua, toward the coffee plantations which lie to the south and toward the llanos, whence live stock is transported to the seacoast for exportation abroad.

Puerto Cabello, a city of about 15,000 inhabitants, is justly celebrated as possessing one of the finest seaports on the entire north coast of South America. In it are united the three conditions of ease of access, safety, and deep water up to the wharves of the city. Besides these advantages, the harbor is commodious and several ocean steamers may load and discharge simultaneously. This favorable circumstance has given great importance to the city, which the proximity of Valencia has greatly increased.

Valencia, having an elevation of nearly 500 meters above sea level, its distance from Puerto Cabello being 54 kilometers, the engineers at times found many difficulties to be encountered, and it was feared that the returns of the road when in operation would not be proportionate to the expenses of construction; but a company was finally organized in England and the work commenced.

There are no places on the line between Puerto Cabello and Valencia worthy of special description except Las Trincheras, where a thermal and sanitary establishment attracts invalids from all parts of the country, and even from Curaçao and other neighboring islands. However, but little was expected from the way traffic, the road being especially constructed to give speedy and regular transport to the coast of the productions of the great agricultural region of which Valencia is the center and for the transportation to the interior of the merchandise from abroad introduced at Puerto Cabello.

On the line from Puerto Cabello to Valencia there are many thousands of hectares lying absolutely idle where are united the conditions of fertile soil, mild and healthful climate, and an abundant water

supply. Had the company from the beginning established settlements in this district its position to-day would be a very different one.

Railways attract population, and in the case of Venezuela and other countries similarly situated it must come from abroad.

Although the Puerto Cabello road does not pass through a country of so much interest as does the line from Caracas to Valencia, where, after leaving the mountains, villages and towns follow each other in rapid succession, many of these being of importance and of historical note, it is yet the great connecting link between the central interior and the coast, and as such will eventually more than realize all the anticipations of its projectors.

Its interests and those of the Great Venezuela Railway are to a certain extent identical, both having the same terminus—the city of Valencia. United they form a continuous route from Puerto Cabello, on the coast, to Caracas, the capital of the Republic, which is, in its turn, united with its seaport, La Guaira, by the railway opened in 1883. Thus the circle is complete and the advantages which must ultimately be derived from this achievement of modern engineering are obvious.

With the continuance of peace, which now seems assured, and the improvement which is confidently looked for in the economic conditions of the country, the Puerto Cabello and Valencia Company justly expect an increase of business which will soon compensate for past losses, and there are sanguine anticipations that the coming year may usher in a period of permanent and increasing prosperity.

History of the Puerto Cabello and Valencia Railway.^a

This line was registered in 1885 at a time when the La Guaira and Caracas Railway, which had been in existence a few years, seemed to be a prosperous undertaking. The same directors control the two companies, but the Puerto Cabello has never been as successful as the La Guaira. The concession for this line was for ninety-nine years, and it was granted a guaranty of 7 per cent per annum on a capital of £820,000. The present capital is £460,000 in £10 shares, and £360,000 in 7 per cent debentures. This line was opened in 1886 and runs a distance of 54 kilometers, starting from Puerto Cabello. The chief business of the line is to carry the products of the great agricultural districts of the interior down to the coast, and of the quick and regular transportation inland of the merchandise from abroad introduced at Puerto Cabello.

Earnings of the past.—For the year 1887 the gross receipts of this line amounted to £56,471, and the expenses to £27,992. In 1890 a

^a Abstract from South American Journal, Feb. 13, 1904.

settlement was made with the Government, which settled the amount due by it, and in consequence a dividend of 8 per cent was paid. In 1891 the shareholders agreed to the guaranty being reduced from 7 per cent to 5 per cent per annum. During the last ten years the gross earnings have declined from £59,339 in 1894 to £21,983 in 1902, although the figures for 1903 are better at £34,850, while the net receipts, which were £21,966 in 1894 and £29,796 two years later, were only £1,513 for 1902. The following table gives the statistics for each of the past ten years, the figures for 1903 being estimated:

Year.	Gross receipts.	Working expenses.	Net receipts.	Arrears.	
				Total guaranty.	Debt-ure interest.
1903 ^a	£34,850	£24,850	£10,000	£300,000	£101,150
1902.....	21,983	20,419	1,513	261,440	71,400
1901.....	81,193	26,244	4,949	222,159	47,600
1900.....	37,298	25,843	11,455	186,354	29,750
1899.....	44,864	26,016	18,848	157,146	17,850
1898.....	35,131	24,002	11,128	135,166	16,150
1897.....	46,629	25,299	20,329	106,306	.....
1896.....	60,472	30,676	29,796	84,946	.....
1895.....	59,069	30,252	28,817	73,935	.....
1894.....	59,339	37,373	21,966	61,759	.....

	QUOTATIONS.											
	Outstanding amount.	1899.		1900.		1901.		1902.		1903.		1904.
		Highest. est.	Lowest. est.	Highest. est.	Lowest. est.	Highest. est.	Lowest. est.	Highest. est.	Lowest. est.	Highest. est.	Lowest. est.	
Ordinary £10 shares	£460,000	2½	1½	1½	1½	2	1	1½	1	2½	1½	3½
7 per cent debentures	340,000	92	78	89	73	77	69	71	65	75½	71½	100

^a Estimated. Debt-ure interest in arrears is to date.

On March 28, 1904, the company was awarded £231,000 in settlement of its claims.

The Carenero-Guapo.—This line carries the cacao from Rio Chico, Caucaagua, and the river Tuy, as well as sugar, coffee, corn, and hides for the La Guaira market.

Guanta to Naricual.—This line was constructed originally to carry the mining products of the Naricual mines and of the valleys of Naricual, Caripicual, and Aragua.

Tucacas to Barquisimeto.—This line leads to the Aroa copper mines and thence to the city of Barquisimeto. It carries part of the agricultural products of the Andes, which terminate in Barquisimeto, where the goods imported are brought. It crosses extensive forests, which are being exploited.

La Vela and Coro.—This line carries the traffic of the region, which consists mainly of coffee and hides.

La Ceiba and Motatán.—This line is one of the three lines which lead to Maracaibo from the east. It has its terminus at a place 9 kilometers distant from Valera, which is the commercial center of all the

rich valleys of the extensive region comprised between Mérida and Tucuyo.

Santa Bárbara and El Vigía.—This line was intended to reach Mérida, but has not yet been completed.

Encontrados and Uracá.—This line carries the traffic of the fertile topographical depression from the Táchira to the south of San Cristóbal and transports the products which are exported through the Zulia-Catatumbo River.

RAILROAD LAW.^a

By the terms of the new railroad law of Venezuela the President is authorized to make contracts for the construction and operation of railroads in the Republic. He may grant concessions for ninety-nine years, at the expiration of which time the railways, with all their rolling stock, offices, and every other appurtenance, revert to the Government.

Article 2 authorizes the Government to grant exclusive right for the operation and construction of railroads for ninety-nine years.

The law reserves to the Government the right to buy, at its option, the railroad lines and their equipment after they have been in actual service for a period of twenty-five years, reckoned from the date of their official inauguration. In case the Government desires to take this action, the management of the company will be served with six months' notice of its intention to purchase the road, either by appraisal, paying an allowance of 20 per cent above the commercial value of the property, or by paying for the property the value represented by its stock, with an addition of 10 per cent, the amount to be paid at the time of transfer.

According to article 4, the railroads shall be divided into provisory and permanent roads. The provisory roads shall have a width between the rails (gauge) of 75 centimeters and a minimum curve radius of 30 meters. The permanent lines shall have a gauge of 1.07 meters (3 feet 6 inches) and a minimum radius of curve of 60 meters. The grade of either line shall not exceed 3 per cent unless a special system of construction is employed.

By article 5, in order to encourage the construction of railroads in cases where the public service seems to demand them, the Government is authorized to contribute, by paying a stipulated sum as each section of 20 kilometers is declared ready for traffic. This subsidy is limited to 10,000 bolivars per kilometer of road constructed on level ground, 20,000 bolivars on swampy or broken ground, and 30,000 bolivars on mountainous ground.

By article 6 the contractor or constructing company which undertakes the work is required to make a deposit of from 50,000 to 100,000

^a Enacted May 31, 1897.

bolivars in gold, or its equivalent in Venezuelan public funds, said deposit to be returned to the contracting parties after the completion of the first section of 20 kilometers of the line. The law requires that the work shall be begun within a stipulated time, after the approval of the contract, and this time can not exceed twelve months. The precise time for the termination of the work and the opening of the railroad to the public service must also be duly stipulated.

The party applying for the concession must submit to the Government the survey and general profiles of the line three months before commencing work, so they may be submitted for approval before the National Congress. This period shall be extended only in cases wherein unavoidable delay has occurred.

The rates of freight and passenger fares must be subject to the approval of the National Government, liable to be lowered whenever the proceeds of the railroad shall exceed 12 per cent on the value of the capital stock. All cases of contention on the part of the company shall be submitted to arbitration.

Article 11 establishes the right to condemn all ground needed for railroad stations, offices, and stores on both sides of the track, the company paying for the same. All material, machinery, and implements necessary for the construction and operation of the road and buildings will be admitted free of duty upon the fulfillment of the usual formalities. All new lines of railway shall conform in gauge to those with which they connect. The narrowest gauge that shall be admitted shall be 1 meter.

The general offices of the company must be either in the capital of the Republic or in the city at one of the termini of the line, but it must always have an authorized representative at the national capital. This shall not prevent them from having also foreign headquarters. No transfer of the property shall be made without the approval of the Government.

TRAMWAYS.

Besides the two tramway lines of Caracas—the Bolivar and the Caracas Companies, the latter having a capital of \$160,000—there are similar lines at Valencia, Maracaibo, Puerto Cabello, Ciudad Bolivar, Barquisimeto, Carúpano, and other important cities of Venezuela.

POSTAL SERVICE.

Universal Postal Union.—Venezuela has belonged to the Universal Postal Union since 1880, and has contributed her share to the international office at Berne.

Postal service.—The postal service in Venezuela is a branch of public administration which depends directly upon the fomento department,

Post-offices.—There is a principal post-office at Caracas, a principal city office in the capital of each State of the Union, and substations where the Executive shall direct. All post-offices are dependent upon the Caracas principal office and the substations upon the State principal offices. Certain offices are especially authorized to effect the international postal service.

According to the last official report (1904) of the fomento department, there existed on December 31, 1903, 28 principal post-offices and 186 substations. For the maintenance of the post-offices of the Republic the sum of \$45,689.16 was spent by the Government.

Correspondence.—Articles 20 to 49 of the postal law in force establish what is to be considered ordinary and official correspondence—postal cards, commercial papers, printed matter, and samples. Since October 3, 1903, a special service for newspaper packages has been organized at the principal post-office of Caracas.

For the transportation of correspondence within the Republic the sum of \$105,000 is set aside yearly.

The following tables, taken from the last official report (1904) of the fomento department, show the movement of the postal service in Venezuela during 1903.

CARACAS PRINCIPAL POST-OFFICE.

Domestic statistics.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED DURING 1903.

	Number.
Letters	203,097
Official correspondence	62,834
Postal cards.....	9,962
Registered.....	37,325
Samples	2,343
Printed matter.....	171,452
Telegraph packages.....	2,382
Packages from the office	6,504
Sundry packages	863

CORRESPONDENCE DISPATCHED DURING 1903.

Letters	179,598
Official correspondence	45,906
Postal cards.....	34,962
Registered	26,239
Samples	5,728
Printed matter.....	258,062
Telegraph packages.....	4,487
Packages from the office	5,345
Sundry packages	2,354

Foreign statistics.

CORRESPONDENCE DISPATCHED ABROAD DURING 1903.

	Number.
Registered	6,645
Official correspondence	7,771
Letters	107,359
Postal cards	25,814
Printed matter	66,868
Samples	18,227

Correspondence dispatched through the principal post-offices of Venezuela.

DOMESTIC STATISTICS.

Received:	Number.
Letters	657,373
Official correspondence	65,433
Postal cards	10,641
Registered	28,076
Samples	7,656
Printed matter	769,714
Telegraph packages	786
Packages from other offices	31,094
Sundry packages	5,918
Dispatched:	
Letters	594,032
Official correspondence	71,916
Postal cards	14,944
Registered	37,692
Samples	13,864
Printed matter	493,651
Telegraph packages	786
Packages from other offices	22,718
Packages from sundry offices	2,652

FOREIGN STATISTICS.

Received:	
Letters	467,025
Official correspondence	792
Postal cards	36,604
Registered	39,213
Samples	36,942
Printed matter	598,098
Dispatched:	
Letters	33,152
Official correspondence	208
Postal cards	7,735
Registered	4,529
Samples	9,524
Printed matter	63,218

Correspondence dispatched through substations.

DOMESTIC STATISTICS.		Number.
Received:		
Letters		860, 763
Official correspondence		10, 312
Postal cards		18, 214
Registered		23, 106
Samples		7, 321
Printed matter		1, 951, 285
Telegraph packages		11, 049
Packages from other offices		21, 123
Sundry packages		13, 603
Dispatched:		
Letters		1, 104, 521
Official correspondence		9, 637
Postal cards		9, 845
Registered		34, 334
Samples		15, 613
Printed matter		1, 245, 834
Telegraph packages		10, 805
Packages from other offices		8, 219
Sundry packages		9, 832

Postage stamps.—Title VI, which comprises articles 50 to 52 of the above-mentioned law, establishes everything regarding the use of ordinary and official postage stamps in Venezuela.

Parcels post.—The international parcels-post service is carried on according to the provisions of the respective convention, and the introduction of such parcels is subject to pay import duties and transit tax according to their contents. (Arts. 70-71.)

During the year 1903 the parcels imported in Venezuela amounted to 4,923 and those exported to 223. These figures do not include the Puerto Cabello and Maracaibo statistics. The Caracas exchange office collected \$15,728.03 import duty on parcels.

Parcels-post convention with the United States.—The *Gaceta Oficial* of Caracas, of January 11, 1901, contains the full text of the new parcels-post convention made between Venezuela and the United States. This treaty was ratified by Venezuela on January 9, 1901.

According to the provisions of the agreement the treaty refers exclusively to parcels and packages, and does not in any way affect the existing arrangements under the Universal Postal Convention, which continues in force.

The rates of postage will be as follows: In Venezuela, for parcels that do not weigh more than 1 pound (or 460 grams), 75 centimes of a bolivar; in the United States, the postage on parcels of the same weight, and for every additional pound or fraction thereof, will be at the rate of 12 cents per pound.

The person mailing each parcel shall make a customs declaration in duplicate, a copy of which shall be fixed on the outside of the parcel,

and shall contain a general description and an exact statement of its contents and value, as well as the date of the remittance and the signature and residence of the sender.

The following articles are prohibited from the mails: Publications which violate the copyright law of the country to which they are sent; poisons, explosive and inflammable materials; fatty substances and liquids and such as easily liquefy; confectionery and pastry; live and dead animals except insects and perfectly dried reptiles; fruits and vegetables which decompose easily; substances which emit a bad odor; lottery tickets, notices, and circulars; obscene or immoral objects, and articles which may destroy or in any way injure the post bags or the persons who handle the mail, etc.

TELEGRAPH SERVICE.

First telegraph line.—The first telegraph line was established in Venezuela in 1856 between Caracas, La Guaira, La Victoria, Valencia, and Puerto Cabello. The operators were Americans, and the Morse system and Grove battery were used.

Telegraph system.—The telegraph system of Venezuela is owned and operated by the Government and is directly controlled by the fomento department. Everything regarding the telegraph management and service, as well as the construction of new lines and the repairing and reconstruction of existing lines, depends also upon said department.

Special lines.—Special telegraph lines can only be allowed for the service of railway companies, but these lines, as also telephone or electric-light lines, must be at least 4 meters distant from any national line.

Telegraph lines.—The national telegraph system is divided into 18 circuits and the stations into 3 classes. There are 20 of the first class, 30 of the second, and 84 of the third. At present there are 129 telegraph offices in operation.

Telegraph mileage.—The total length of the telegraph lines of Venezuela was 6,480 kilometers on December 31, 1903.

Material for the lines.—During the year 1903 the Government of Venezuela imported from the United States of America 1,896 packages containing material, elements of batteries, apparatus, etc., weighing 81,404 kilos and costing \$15,481.33.

Telegraph budget.—The general telegraph budget during 1903 reached the sum of \$266,794.52. The Government has paid to the cable company for official cablegrams, sent from Venezuela during the same period, the sum of \$3,045.

Telegraph receipts.—The receipts of the telegraph lines during 1903 amounted to \$35,739.75.

Telegraph rates.—By resolution of the fomento department, of July 10, 1901, the telegraph rates were established, and by another

resolution of the same department of February 20, 1904, the name of one addressee and of one sender and place where the telegram is sent count as one word.

Places in the text of the telegram shall be reckoned according to number of words. Addresses are registered at the rate of \$10 a year, paid quarterly in advance.

Subfluvial cables.—The Government has laid a cable in the bed of the Orinoco, connecting Soledad with Ciudad Bolivar, thus enabling a telegraphic dispatch to be sent from Caracas to the latter town without interruption and, through the Government's lines, to the extreme southeast of the telegraph system.

To connect the town of Maracaibo with the northwest telegraph system the Government has laid a cable in the bed of the Maracaibo Lake, connecting Los Puertos de Altigracia to the former town.

TELEPHONE SERVICE.

Through concessions granted by the Government to American companies this service is already well established in Venezuela and is being gradually extended to various sections of the country.

The Intercontinental Company began its operations in August, 1883, and to December 31, 1888, had mounted 776 instruments in Caracas, La Guaira, Valencia, and Puerto Cabello. Besides the communications established within these cities, lines from Caracas to La Guaira and from Valencia to Puerto Cabello are also maintained. This company had on November 30, 1890, 1,477 subscribers in connection with its various offices and a daily average of 6,000 calls.

The American Company began operations in 1888 and has established its service in Caracas, La Guaira, Maracaibo, and Antimano. Arrangements are in active progress for the establishment of its service in the cities of Ciudad Bolivar, La Victoria, Guatire, Guarenas, San Cristóbal, and Rubio. The company has introduced into Venezuela 1,350 telephonic instruments, 1,400 miles of wire, and all the other necessary apparatus and appliances for first-class service. It is estimated that there are at present about 3,000 apparatuses at Caracas in operation.

According to the report of the department of agriculture, industry, and commerce for 1899, there were 12 telephone companies in Venezuela, operating 5,214 kilometers of wire, their aggregate capital amounting to \$75,000, of which companies 2 were at Caracas and 1 at each of the following places, viz: Tocuyo, Barquisimeto, Ciudad Bolivar, Barcelona, Coro, Valencia, Maracaibo, San Cristóbal, Rubio, and Mérida.

According to the last official report (1904) of the fomento department, the Government has begun to establish an official telephone service in the Federal district, on which it has spent already about \$9,000. The line will have, when completed, an extension of 295 kilometers and

will place in communication all the public departments and offices. One hundred apparatuses have been already installed.

CABLE SERVICE.

Telegraphic communication with foreign countries is established by means of the submarine cables. The Government has entered into a contract with the French Cable Company and has national fiscal agents at its cable offices of Caracas and La Guaira.

Submarine communication is effected from Paris through Brest, New York, Dominican Republic, and Curaçao, whence two cables are laid to Venezuela. One runs to La Vela and Maracaibo and the other to La Guaira, where it touches, one branch going to the west from La Guaira-Puerto Cabello and the other to the east from La Guaira to Carenero, Guanta, Cumaná, Porlamar (Margarita Island), and Carúpano. The rate per word to the United States is \$1.50. The French Cable Company makes a reduction of 50 per cent on press dispatches.

CONTRACT WITH THE FRENCH CABLE COMPANY.

On July 3, 1900, the Venezuelan Government entered into a contract with the French Cable Company, of which the following is an abstract:

"ARTICLE 1. The Government grants the company permission to lay telegraph wires to unite the submarine cables from their terminals to the offices established, or which may be established, allowing the land line which will unite the terminals at Guanta with the office at Barcelona to follow the railroad which connects that port with the city.

"ART. 2. Being aware of the technical difficulties attending the laying of submarine cables between Carúpano and Ciudad Bolívar through the bed of the Orinoco River, the company agrees to lay a river cable between Ciudad Bolívar and Soledad, which shall be the property of the nation and which shall unite the cable at Soledad with the national telegraph line which runs from that point to Barcelona, under the following conditions:

"(a) The company shall establish a cable service via the national telegraph line which connects Soledad with Barcelona, paying therefor the tariff it now pays on telegrams transmitted to the interior; that is to say, 0.05 of a bolívar per word.

"(b) The company shall contribute one-half the expenses of keeping in repair the overland line from Soledad to Barcelona and of the subfluvial line from Ciudad Bolívar to Soledad.

"(c) The maximum of repairs to the last-mentioned lines, as per mutual agreement, is fixed at 10,000 bolívares annually. The 5,000 bolívares annually which the French Cable Company agrees to pay shall be paid by it to the order of the fomento department in quarterly installments in advance, counting from July 1 last.

"(d) Neither the concession nor the contribution to which this article refers shall give any right whatever to the company to interfere with the service of the national line, the company having only the right to officially address the fomento department advising in regard to any obstructions which may occur upon the line.

"ART. 3. The company shall not have the authority to increase or diminish the present tariff without the previous consent of the Government. In case of the interruption of one of the cables of the company it may make use of the cables of other companies to secure international service and shall collect the rates of said companies during said interruption.

"ART. 4. Although the company is exempted from all taxes, not only by its contract made with the Government on January 3, 1895, and approved by Congress on April 23 of the same year, but also by article 19, LXXXVI, of the International Telegraphic Convention, it shall be obliged to stamp each cablegram transmitted with 0.25 céntimos of bolivar.

"ART. 5. The Government grants the company until December 31, 1900, in which to lay the subfluvial cable between Ciudad Bolivar and Soledad which shall complete the coast-line system of the company.

"ART. 6. The company acknowledges receipt from the National Government of 64,261.55 bolivars due for official cablegrams from the first quarter of 1895 to date, and all claims of the company against the Government are hereby withdrawn.

"ART. 7. All questions and controversies that may arise as to the interpretation and execution of this contract shall be settled in accordance with the laws of Venezuela and by the courts of the Republic and shall in no case give rise to international claims."

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CHAPTER XII.

IMMIGRATION AND COLONIZATION—LAWS AND REGULATIONS.

PRINCIPAL PROVISIONS OF THE IMMIGRATION LAW.

Classification of immigrants.—Immigrants are classified as follows:

- (1) Those arriving without contract; (2) those under contract with some of the States; (3) those under contract with private individuals or companies; (4) those who come to work in colonies on public land belonging to private persons; (5) those for colonies on private land; (6) those engaged by the Government to work in colonies.

Inducements.—The Government allows the following: (1) Free transportation from the starting place to that of destination at the main immigrant depots; (2) landing and living expenses for thirty days after their arrival; (3) free import of belongings; (4) exemption of consular and other fees; (5) free transportation to the colony when engaged by the Government.

Grants.—Each immigrant, within prescribed ages, is entitled to from 2 to 6 hectares of public land, provided they cultivate one-third of the area within four years.

Immigrants are governed by the alien law, but may be naturalized.

Obligations.—(1) The engagement of agriculturists or laborers does not exceed four years; (2) wages are paid weekly in cash; (3) living and dwelling expenses are granted to each family during the first year; (4) one hectare of land is granted free to each family, provided they cultivate it, the necessary means are advanced to them to construct their dwelling house and buy utensils, implements, seeds, domestic animals, and live stock, and the sums advanced are to be reimbursed in the second, third, and fourth years without interest; (5) immigrants engage to work in the estates of the contractors four days a week during harvest time and half of the week during the rest of the year; (6) they can not work for another contractor without permission.

Purchase of lands.—Immigrants who purchase public lands within two years of their arrival shall not be bound to pay for them until four years later, and then the title deed is issued in their favor.

Colonization.—Settlements may be established either in public or in private lands or on lands purchased from private parties by the National Government or established by the latter on public lands. Half of the

land granted to colonization companies must be distributed by the latter among the colonists.

Colonies.—The two colonies existing in Venezuela were established in 1874, with the object of encouraging immigration. The lands are fertile and the climate very healthful. The colonies are:

Bolivar Colony is situated in the Sucre district of the State of Bermúdez, 22 square kilometers in extent, about 48 kilometers from Caracas and 8 kilometers from Guatire. The principal town is Araith. The territory is irrigated by several streams and the Araith River. The main products of the colony are coffee, produce, and starch.

Independencia Colony is situated in the Altagracia district of the old State of Miranda. Its area is 555 square kilometers, its altitude 1,645 meters above the level of the sea, and it is about 112 kilometers distant from Caracas. The lands are mountainous and excellent for agricultural purposes, the main products being coffee, sugar cane, yucca, and cacao. There are extensive forests where woods for building purposes are most abundant. The territory is irrigated by two rivers, and five creeks, which form the Taguaza River, navigable for canoes as far as the Tuy, opposite Aragüita, thence by steamboats to the sea. Taguacita is the principal town in the colony.

IMMIGRATION LAW.

[Full text of law.]

The Congress of the United States of Venezuela decrees:

CHAPTER I.—IMMIGRATION.

TITLE I.—*Immigration in general, and the different classes and conditions of immigrants.*

ARTICLE 1. The immigration of foreigners shall be effected and regulated in the country according to the provisions of the present law.

ART. 2. The National Government and the government of each State, according to article 146 of the constitution, shall promote and facilitate the immigration into the Republic of such foreigners as may be capable of engaging in agricultural pursuits, in cattle raising, in any art, trade, or domestic service.

ART. 3. Persons of the West Indies shall not be admitted as immigrants, nor anyone, of whatever country, older than sixty years, unless he has a family coming with him to settle or already settled in the Republic.

ART. 4. Persons lacking the required conditions of health and morality shall also be disqualified to be immigrants.



LA GUAIRA AND CARACAS RAILWAY, FREIGHT TRAIN (BOQUERÓN).

This curve is over 3,000 feet above sea level. (Courtesy of the Venezuelan Government.)

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ART. 5. The governments of the States, before carrying into effect the provisions they may make in favor of immigration, shall communicate them to the National Government in compliance with art. 2 of the present law.

ART. 6. Any foreigner shall be considered for the purposes of the present law to be an immigrant if he has left his country to come and settle in Venezuela and has had his passage paid by the government from the port of embarkation abroad to that of arrival in the country.

§ Any foreigner who has not accepted payment of his passage by the government, but who goes before the immigration agent, or, if there be none, before the consul of Venezuela at the place where he resides, and declares before sailing for Venezuela that he is willing to accept all the benefits that the present law grants to immigrants, and to comply with all the conditions which it imposes upon them, shall be also considered an immigrant.

ART. 7. Immigrants shall be divided into classes as follows:

1. Immigrants without contract, coming in search of some occupation in the country.

2. Immigrants coming under contracts entered into between them and the government of some one of the States.

3. Immigrants coming under contracts entered into between them and private individuals, associations, or companies not specially engaged in colonization.

4. Immigrants under contract to work in colonies belonging to private persons on vacant public lands.

5. Immigrants under contract to work in colonies belonging to private persons on their own private lands.

6. Immigrants under contract to work in colonies under the direct management of the Government.

This sixth class shall be subdivided as follows:

(1) Immigrants under contract to work in colonies established in vacant public lands.

(2) Immigrants under contract to work in colonies established in lands purchased by the Government from private parties.

ART. 8. The Government shall take care, as far as circumstances permit, that a reasonable proportion, both in regard to sex and nationality, be kept among the immigrants, thus avoiding as far as practicable an undue excess in the numbers of either sex or any one nationality.

TITLE II.—*Central board of immigration.*

ART. 9. A board is hereby created, consisting of six members, two of whom must be selected from persons engaged in agriculture. Two others must be merchants residing in the capital of the Republic. The manner of appointment, as well as the regulation of the powers

and duties of this board, shall be properly provided for by an Executive decree.

ART. 10. The board thus created shall be known by the name of "central board of immigration." As soon as organized it shall have power to establish throughout the Republic such subordinate boards as may be thought necessary, their respective members being selected by it from among the most competent and respectable citizens of each locality.

TITLE III.—Privileges, assistance, and guarantees granted to immigrants by the Government.

ART. 11. For the purpose of promoting immigration in the proper way, the Government shall grant all immigrants voluntarily coming to the country the following assistance, privileges, and guarantees, to wit:

1. The payment of their passage, both by sea and by land, from the place of embarkation to any of the main immigrant depots.

§ (1) The National Government may also, if it chooses, pay the passage of the immigrant from the place of his residence to the place of embarkation.

2. Payment of landing expenses, and board and lodging of the immigrants for thirty days subsequent to their arrival.

3. Admission free of duty of all their wearing apparel, domestic utensils, seeds, useful animals, machinery, tools, and instruments of their calling.

4. Exemption from payment of any fee, consular or other, for the passport given them, and in which the circumstance that the bearer is an immigrant must be stated.

§ (2) Immigrants belonging to the sixth class above described shall be taken, at the Government's expense, to the colony for which they have been engaged.

ART. 12. The Executive Power shall set apart for the immigrants above 10 years of age of the first, second, and third classes, and of the first subdivision of the sixth class, a number of lots of vacant public lands sufficient to give each one not less than 2 hectares (5 acres) nor more than 6 hectares (14 acres), according to the fertility of the soil, its healthfulness, and its distance from the centers of population. But the grant of these lots shall be made dependent on the condition that at least the third part of their area be put under cultivation within four years, counted from the day in which actual possession of the land is given. Upon the fulfillment of this condition the Government will make a final concession of the land in fee simple to the immigrant.

§ (1) The National Executive shall be subject, in regard to the lands referred to in this article, to the same restrictions as are established in section first of article 27.

§ (2) The lands referred to in this article shall be subject to the conditions established in article 30, except in relation to the kind of cultivation.

§ (3) Actual possession of the lands referred to in this article shall not be given to the immigrants of the second and third classes until after the obligations of their contracts are duly fulfilled.

ART. 13. In order to save time and expense to the interested parties, the National Government shall waive all the steps and requisites not indispensable to make the title perfect in the following cases:

1. Whenever the tracts of land referred to in article 27 are to be set aside or allotted, or finally conveyed in fee simple to colonization companies.

2. Whenever the conveyances referred to in section first of article 29 are to be made and executed.

3. Whenever the tracts of land referred to in article 12 are to be set apart or allotted, or finally conveyed in fee simple to individual immigrants.

4. Whenever the tracts of land referred to in article 33 are to be purchased from private persons, and whenever a portion of the same tracts of land is to be sold to an immigrant under the same article.

5. Whenever the lots referred to in article 34 are to be sold to pre-emptor colonists, or whenever any of the second lots referred to in the same article is to be alienated.

6. Whenever the title of ownership of the vacant public lands purchased by an immigrant, under art. 25, is to be executed.

ART. 14. Immigrants shall enjoy in the Republic all the rights granted by law to aliens; and if they choose to be naturalized they shall be exempted from military service during the whole of their lives, except only in case of foreign war.

TITLE IV.—*Duties of immigrants.*

ART. 15. In addition to the duties incumbent upon all foreigners residing in Venezuela, immigrants shall be bound to fulfill the obligations comprised in the contracts according to which they have come to the country.

ART. 16. The contracts of the immigrants shall be made according to the following conditions:

1. The engagement of agriculturists or laborers shall not exceed four years, and one year for artisans, employees, workmen, and servants.

2. The price that may be established for the daily work of agriculturists shall be paid weekly in cash and not in vouchers or other effects, declaring whether the living expenses are included.

3. Each family shall be given free lodging during the first year.

4. One hectare of agricultural land shall be granted without expense to each family with the expressed condition that it be cultivated. To

this effect the contractors shall advance to them the necessary means to construct their dwelling house, and buy utensils, implements, seeds, domestic animals, and live stock. Immigrants shall pay the sums advanced in the second, third, and fourth years, in equal weekly payments without any interest.

5. Families that have been engaged oblige themselves to work in the estates of the contractors four days in each week at least during the harvest period and the rest of the year half of the week.

6. No engaged immigrant shall work in another estate without permission from his contractor.

8. From each contract three copies shall be made, one for the representative or father of the family engaged, another for the contractor, and the third for the files of the central board of immigration, and the latter shall issue all the measures that may be deemed necessary in order to insure the strict compliance to all the clauses of the contract.

TITLE V.—Formalities to be observed by companies or individuals wishing to bring immigrants and the manner of bringing them.

ART. 17. All companies and individuals proposing to bring immigrants into the Republic shall file an application before the National Executive, asking for the proper authority to do so; and the said authority shall be granted to them, through the proper department, on condition that they fulfill all the requisites provided in the present decree, and in all other rules and regulations which may be in force at the time when the authority is granted.

ART. 18. Before granting such authority and before entering into any immigration or colonization contracts with a private individual or with a company the head of the said department shall ask the opinion of the central board of immigration. If the report be unfavorable the head of the department shall demand from the applicants such guarantees as may be required to protect the interests of the treasury or of the country, and if such be not given the application shall be denied.

ART. 19. Private individuals or companies proposing to bring immigrants to Venezuela may employ for that purpose the kind of vessels or the class of passage they may prefer, but the Government shall be responsible only for the amount of the fare agreed upon between it and the applicant.

TITLE VI.—Manner of making contracts with immigrants.

ART. 20. Private individuals or companies having permission to bring immigrants into the Republic, and desiring to enter into contracts with said immigrants, shall be allowed to do so directly and in

the usual way, by themselves or through competent attorneys or representatives, subject, however, to the restrictions established in article 22 as to the duration of said contracts. Said contracts may be also made and entered into through the respective information agents, under the rules provided in articles 21 and 22 of the present decree.

ART. 21. Private individuals or companies wishing to make their contracts through the respective information agents shall set forth in their applications the number, class, and nationality of the persons they wish to bring to the country, their sex and age, their trades or occupations, the number of hours they will be required to work, the wages to be paid them, the kind of lodging to be given them, the extent of the tract of land to be given them for cultivation, and all other particulars which may be desired. As far as consistent with their official character, it shall be the duty of the State Governments, when desiring immigration, to give notice to the National Government of all the facts and circumstances just enumerated, and to make all other explanations necessary.

ART. 22. The applications referred to in the preceding article shall be referred by the National Executive for the proper report to the respective information agents abroad; and when the terms stated in the same are accepted by the immigrants a bilateral contract shall be understood to have been made and entered into between them and the applicants. This contract shall be executed before the respective consuls and shall be binding upon the parties thereto. These contracts shall last for four years, but this time may be extended at the will of the parties. No stipulation contrary to the constitution and laws of the Republic or to any international treaty shall be allowed in these contracts.

ART. 23. Private individuals or companies desiring to make these contracts directly, either by themselves or through attorneys, shall set forth in their applications the number of immigrants they wish to bring to the country, their nationality, sex, trade, or occupation, and their approximate age.

TITLE VII.—*Purchase of public lands.*

ART. 24. Such immigrants as may purchase public lands during the first two years of their residence in the Republic shall not be bound to pay the price thereof until after the expiration of four years, counted from the day in which they enter into actual possession of the purchased land; but they will not be allowed to sell or transfer said land during this period.

ART. 25. The patent or title of ownership shall not be delivered to the immigrant until after he has paid up the stipulated price and given sufficient proof both of his residence in the tract of land referred to and of his having put the same under cultivation.

CHAPTER II.—COLONIZATION.

TITLE I.—*Colonization in public lands by private individuals or companies.*

ART. 26. The Executive Power shall grant all private individuals or companies which may desire to establish colonies all such tracts of public lands as they may request, provided they bind themselves to cultivate said lands, within the period of four years counted from the day of possession, with immigrants introduced through the National Government.

§ First. The Executive shall have no power to grant for these purposes any tract of land already occupied or cultivated by Venezuelans who are willing to purchase it, or any tract of land which has been legally denounced by private parties, or those the preservation of which may be deemed to be desirable for the national interests.

§ Second. The grant of the lands referred to in this article shall be made by the Executive Power in proportion to the number of immigrants over ten years of age; but the grant shall never exceed ten hectares (24 acres) nor be less than two for each immigrant, and in all cases it shall be determined in accordance with the degree of fertility and salubrity of said lands and their distance from the center of population.

§ Third. The Executive Power shall cause these lands to be surveyed by a surveyor appointed by it for this purpose.

ART. 27. The Executive Power shall cause the colonization companies to stipulate in their contracts for colonization in public lands that half of the lands granted them for this purpose shall be distributed among the colonists and conveyed to them in fee simple in the proportions and conditions of article 12 and in conformity with the foregoing article.

ART. 28. If, after the expiration of the four years mentioned in the preceding articles, it be proved to the satisfaction of the Executive Power, by the colonization company, that one-third at least of the lands granted has been brought under cultivation, by the establishment of regular farms or estates therein, and that this has been done chiefly with immigrants introduced by the said company, then and in that case the Executive Power shall issue and deliver to the latter the patent or title of ownership in fee simple of the lands thus granted.

§ 1. The colonization company shall then convey in fee simple to the colonists the lands which belong to them, according to art. 27.

ART. 29. Those lands which at the expiration of the four years above referred to are not under cultivation in the proportion and in the manner mentioned in the preceding article shall return to the possession of the Republic as public lands.

TITLE II.—*Colonization in private land by companies or private persons.*

ART. 30. In order that an aggregation of immigrants on a tract of land belonging to private parties may be considered a colony, the following shall be required:

1. That the owner of the land shall have previously declared his intention to found the said colony, and asked for the authority to do so from the proper Executive Department.

§ The application for this authority shall set forth particularly all the conditions under which the applicant intends to found his colony, and especially the number of persons of which it is to consist. The Department shall refer this application for the proper report to the Central Board of Immigration, which may ask for further information if in its judgment the application does not contain all the explanations necessary.

2. That the colony shall consist of at least two hundred immigrants brought into the country with the expressed purpose to form it.

3. That the colony shall contain at least fifty dwelling houses, and that subsequent to the foundation of the colony 200 hectares of the land thereof shall have been brought under cultivation.

4. That the majority of the immigrants who form the colony shall have resided within its limits for at least four consecutive years.

ART. 31. Upon the fulfilment of the requisites set forth in the preceding article each one of the immigrants who form the colony shall be entitled, as soon as his own contract with the owner of the land is duly complied with, to receive from the National Treasury the sum of \$19.30, which shall be paid to him in lieu and in compensation for the public lands which the nation has not given to him. And the owner of the land wherein the colony has been founded shall also be entitled to receive from the Government, in remuneration of his efforts, \$11.58 for each immigrant over ten years of age, a sum that shall be given him as remuneration for his services.

§ Failure on the part of the owner to comply with the requisites provided for in the preceding article shall, if in the opinion of the central board of immigration it depends upon his will, render him liable to the immigrants for the damages they may have sustained; but if the failure depends upon the immigrants themselves, then they shall be bound to indemnify the owner.

The amount of the indemnities herein provided for shall never exceed \$19.30 when paid by the owner to the immigrant and \$11.58 when paid by the immigrant to the owner.

TITLE III.—*Colonization in lands purchased by the National Government from private parties.*

ART. 32. The Government shall have power to purchase lands from private parties for colonization purposes only in case they are uncultivated.

tivated. The lands thus purchased shall be divided, as their topographical conditions permit, into equal portions, not exceeding 4 hectares each, and laid out, as far as practicable, in squares. The Government shall sell these lots, that is to say, reserving or leaving one lot unsold between two sold. The unreserved lots shall be offered for sale on easy terms, according to their special circumstances, to the first immigrants, founders of the colony, and the reserved ones shall be disposed of afterwards, either by sale at public auction or by grant or contract; but this shall not be done until the value of the reserved lands has increased sufficiently to compensate for the losses sustained in the sale of the others.

§ First. On equal terms, preference shall be given for the acquisition of the reserved lots to the owners of the ones not reserved.

§ Second. All owners are bound to give each other the right of way in the manner which may be least injurious to them.

§ Third. The Government shall distribute the water as equitably as possible among the different lots into which the ground is divided.

ART. 33. If the Government desires to establish a town in an agricultural colony, such portion of the lands as may be sufficient for a public square shall be reserved. The principal public buildings shall be erected facing the said square. The balance of the ground set apart for the town shall be divided into squares of one hundred meters on each side, separated from each other by streets twelve meters wide. Each square shall also be subdivided into lots of greater or less size, facing the street. These shall be sold alternately, as provided for in the foregoing articles for the agricultural lots, but no preference whatever shall be given for the acquisition of the reserved lots to the purchaser of those not reserved.

ART. 34. When the colony has been founded by the National Government on lands purchased to that effect from private parties, the colonists shall have the right to elect their own police authorities, according to article 27.

ART. 35. In no case shall the Government have power to compel the lawful owner of a tract of land to cede it or sell it, either wholly or in part, for the establishment of colonies, nor to force the said owner to sell separately from the ground any particular building, water course, or spring belonging to them.

TITLE IV.—*Colonization made by the National Government on public lands.*

ART. 36. The purpose of the Government being to promote the foundation of colonies under its direct control on public lands, sections of the said lands, measuring at least 3,000 hectares, shall be set apart by the National Executive; and there shall be located, according to the necessities of the case, the tract to be given to each immigrant of the

first and third categories and of the first subdivision of the sixth category. The National Executive shall cause these tracts to be previously surveyed and classified, in order to locate them as directed.

§ As soon as the colony counts at least five hundred foreign settlers they shall have the right to elect their own police. The Government shall also assist them, as far as permitted by the circumstances of the national treasury, in opening roads which may render easier or safer communication between those localities and the nearest highway or railroad extension. Said road shall be six meters wide, with a grade not exceeding six per cent.

CHAPTER III.—SOLE TITLE.

General provisions.

ART. 37. The provisions made and enacted in this decree shall be made known to each immigrant before he leaves his country, and it shall be the duty of the respective agent or consul for Venezuela to impart to him this information, and to make a record of the fact on a registry to be kept for this purpose.

ART. 38. The National Executive has power to make such rules as may be necessary to carry into effect the provisions of the present decree.

ART. 39. A suitable amount shall be included in the general appropriation bill of each year sufficient to provide for this matter and to promote immigration and colonization in Venezuela.

ART. 40. The executive decree of January 7, 1893, and the former law on this subject are hereby repealed.

Given and signed in the Federal legislative palace of Caracas on August 14, 1894—84th year of independence and 36th of the Federation.

The president of the Senate, P. FEBRES CORDERO. The president of the Chamber of Deputies, J. FRANCISCO CASTILLO. The secretary of the Senate, FRANCISCO PIMENTEL. The secretary of the Chamber of Deputies, CARLOS LEÓN.

Federal palace of Caracas, August 26, 1894—84th year of the independence and 36th of the Federation. Be it executed. JOAQUÍN CRESPO. Countersigned. A. LOUTOWSKI, Minister of Fomento.

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CHAPTER XIII.

INSTRUCTION—LAWS ON EDUCATION, REGULATIONS, COLLEGE AND SCHOOL SYSTEMS.

INSTRUCTION.

Education.—Gratuitous and compulsory instruction was established in Venezuela by an Executive decree on June 27, 1870.

Education in Venezuela is ruled by the code of public instruction promulgated on April 12, 1904, and is classed under the denominations *public* and *private* instruction.

Private tuition.—Private instruction is acquired at home or in institutions established for the purpose.

Public instruction.—Public instruction is supported by the nation, the States of the Union, and the municipalities, the following revenues being set aside for the support of public instruction, viz:

The proceeds from the school; postage stamps, postal cards, and letters deposited in the treasury of public instruction; the interests allotted to its service out of the national consolidated debt; the fines imposed upon the infractors of the provisions of the law in force relating to public instruction; the taxes levied by law on inheritances; the duties on cut and manufactured tobacco imported into the country, and the proceeds of the stamps affixed in each package of cigarettes sold or offered for sale.

Organization.—Public instruction was reorganized by an Executive decree of July 4, 1903, according to the provisions of which decree public instruction consists of the following eight branches:

Primary schools, secondary schools, normal schools, national colleges, engineering school, universities, academies, polytechnic school.

In the Federal district 100 public schools are established, and in the States of the Union 600. Instruction is imparted in said institutions according to the provisions of the aforesaid code of public instruction.

Primary instruction.—Primary instruction is divided into compulsory and voluntary education, both imparted free. Compulsory primary education is imposed by law on all Venezuelans of either sex, and voluntary instruction comprises all the matters taught in national institutions of learning which are not considered strictly essential, but optional. Religious tuition is classed under voluntary education.

Primary schools.—Primary instruction is given in boys' and girls'

first and second grade schools. These establishments must be annexed to the normal schools, and the National Executive may create them separately and according to the needs of the country. In the schools of the first grade religious Catholic education is voluntary for the pupils whose parents should so desire; but instruction embracing the reading of both manuscript and printed matter, writing, elements of arithmetic, metric system, elements of geography, history and political constitution of the Republic, good manners, habits of cleanliness, moral and civic education, and calisthenics, and agronomy in the rural district schools, is compulsory. Girls will be taught in the first-grade schools, besides the above-mentioned matters, needlework, cutting and sewing, dressmaking, and elements of domestic economy. In the second-grade schools the following matters are taught: Writing from dictation, the Spanish language, practical arithmetic, geography, history and the political constitution of Venezuela, universal history and geography, linear drawing, general principles of physics and natural sciences and their application to industry, morals, elements of civil common law, and gymnastics. None but those who have passed the first-grade schools can enter these institutions, after giving satisfactory evidence of this fact, either by showing the proper certificate or by passing an examination.

Boards of primary instruction.—The boards of primary instruction are divided into three classes, as follows: Sectional boards, district boards, and parish boards.

Secondary schools.—Secondary instruction is organized by means of Federal colleges, one for boys and one for girls in each school section, to be established regardless of the existence of any others; or those that the National Executive may deem advisable to establish whenever and wherever circumstances may demand; and of the normal schools which shall be established in the Republic for both sexes. Each Federal college shall have a primary school annexed. In the Federal colleges for boys the following subjects must be taught: Latin, Greek, French, English, German, universal history, grammar, rhetoric, universal geography, arithmetic, algebra, geometry, trigonometry, topography, astronomy, physics, chemistry, elemental philosophy, pedagogy, and topographic drawing. In the Federal colleges for girls the following must be taught: Morals and manners, elocution, arithmetic, grammar and composition, universal geography, French, English, history, drawing, music and singing, hygiene, calisthenics, domestic economy, sewing, embroidery, cutting and dressmaking, and pedagogy.

Normal schools.—Normal schools are for the instruction of teachers, and have a Federal school annexed. The subjects taught in these schools are pedagogy, elocution, caligraphy, Spanish, arithmetic, geography of Venezuela and universal geography, elements of anatomy, hygiene, physiology, civic instruction, gymnastics, music, and draw-

ing; and in the normal schools for young ladies, besides the above, the Froebel system, manual work, domestic economy, and household duties. There are two normal schools, one for women at Caracas and one for men at Valencia.

Attendance.—In 1903 the attendance of the women's school and annex was 113 students.

Superior instruction.—Superior instruction is imparted in the following national universities: The Caracas Central University, established on August 19, 1725, and in the Universities of Mérida (State of Los Andes), established in 1810; Valencia (State of Carabobo); Maracaibo (State of Zulia); Ciudad Bolívar (State of Bolívar), and Barquisimeto (State of Lara).

Organisation of universities.—Universities in Venezuela have the following learned faculties, viz: Faculty of political sciences, faculty of medicine, faculty of philosophy and letters, and faculty of pharmacy.

The school of dentistry and that of veterinary are also established and ascribed to the faculty of medicine.

Course of studies.—To obtain the degree of doctor in the first three faculties it is necessary to follow a course of studies covering six years, and to become a doctor of pharmacy the course of study covers two years.

To become a dentist it is necessary to pass an examination according to article 169 of the Code of Public Instruction of Venezuela, be approved, have practiced during two years with a titular dentist, be submitted to practical examination on medical dentistry before a board of three dentists appointed for that purpose, and comply with the provisions of article 177 of said Code and of Chapter VII of the law of December 7, 1897.^a

To become a veterinary surgeon it is necessary to comply with the provisions of articles 170, 173, and 177 of the aforesaid code and of Chapter VII of the law of December 7, 1897.^a

Academies.—There are two academies in Venezuela, namely, the Academy of the Spanish Language and the National History Academy.

Academy of the Spanish Language.—This academy is a correspondent of the Spanish Royal Academy, and since its establishment in 1881 has never ceased to send to the latter new additions and amendments of definitions, proverbs, and etymologies for the dictionary of the Spanish language.

National History Academy.—This body has been indefatigable in its research of matters relative to the annals of Venezuelan history.

Scientific and literary bodies.—Besides the medical, engineering, and law colleges and council of physicians, which are ruled by their own special regulations, there exist six collegiate bodies, the principal object of which is to further the interests of science and letters, namely, Academy of the Spanish Language, National History Academy, Mathematic and Physic Science Academy, Biologic and Medical Science

^a The new Code of Public Instruction was promulgated on April 12, 1904.

Academy, Social and Law Science Academy, and Caracas Atheneum, according to the provisions of articles 257 to 304 of the Code of Public Instruction.^a

Engineering school.—This school is established according to articles 180 to 183 of the Code of Public Instruction. From it graduate civil, military, and agricultural engineers and architects. The course is for four years.^a

Mining school.—According to article 194 of the Code of Public Instruction, a school for mining agencies is established, and to be admitted to the school as student it is necessary to have successfully passed the examination for, and received the diploma of, land surveyor, as provided by articles 195 to 197 of the said code.^a

Agricultural school.—This is the only superior school of agriculture in Venezuela. It has a well-chosen personnel, and a programme of studies selected from those of the best American and European institutes. The agricultural propaganda is carried out by means of central boards of agriculture established at the capitals of the States. It possesses a library on agriculture, an agricultural museum with a permanent exhibit of industrial and natural products, and a museum of natural history and of agricultural machines and instruments. An experimental station is to be added to the agricultural school and a seticulture school is annexed to it, where everything relative to the raising of silkworms is studied in a practical manner.

Attendance.—In 1903, 20 students followed the regular course.

Pasteur Institute.—This institute, established in 1896 especially for scientific research, is supported by the Government and has rendered efficient service.

Seminary.—On September 28, 1900, the Caracas Seminary was established. The faculty of ecclesiastical science carries on there its studies of theology and canonical jurisprudence according to the provisions of the Code of Public Instruction. It is a Catholic institution and has a superior course of studies, a three years' philosophical course, and a preparatory course.

Attendance.—In 1903, 10 students followed the superior course, 5 the second course, and 13 the preparatory course.

Fine arts school.—The school of fine arts teaches drawing and painting (30 students), sculpture (16), artistic anatomy (19), architecture (16), music (all the students), and oratory (25) in a course of three to four years. It has a department for men and one for women.

Polytechnic school.—There is a polytechnic school at Caracas in which the respective matters ascribed to it are studied. The course is divided into three sections, the two first being obligatory and third optional.

Attendance.—In 1903 the school was attended by 85 students, of

^a The new Code of Public Instruction was promulgated on April 12, 1904.

which 11 belong to the third course, 17 to the first, 41 to the preparatory school, and 16 to the annex.

Art and trades schools.—There shall exist one art and trades school in the Federal district and one in each of the capitals of the States.

The course of studies covers three years and instruction is imparted in four different workshops, namely, the masonry, the carpentry, the tailoring, and the shoemaking workshop.

Libraries.—There is a library at Caracas containing over 50,000 volumes and the Government is empowered to establish libraries wherever there are universities or Federal colleges. There are in the country other important libraries, such as that of Valencia, the capital of the Carabobo State, the one which belongs to College of Maracaibo, that of the Miranda State, and the one established in the capital of the Falcón State. Each one of these libraries possesses more than 2,000 volumes.

National museum.—The national museum at Caracas is divided into five sections, namely, national history, natural history and archaeology, picture gallery, sculpture gallery, and architecture gallery.

Astronomical observatory.—This institute is ascribed to the school of engineers.

National colleges, 1903.—The following table shows the number of colleges, where located, the number of professors, and attendance in 1903, compiled from the report of the department of public instruction of Venezuela for 1904.

National college.	City.	State.	Number of professors.	Attendance.
Girls.....	Caracas.....	Federal District.....	7	210
Boys.....	La Victoria.....	Aragua.....	4	40
Girls.....	do.....	do.....	2	35
Boys.....	San Fernando.....	Apure.....	4	.....
Girls.....	do.....	do.....	2	28
Boys.....	Ciudad Bolívar.....	Bolívar.....	3	.....
Girls.....	do.....	do.....	2	43
Boys.....	Barcelona.....	Barcelona.....	4	55
Girls.....	do.....	do.....	2	35
Do.....	Valencia.....	Carabobo.....	14	162
Boys.....	Coro.....	Falcón.....	4	.....
Girls.....	do.....	do.....	2	42
Boys.....	Calabozo.....	Guárico.....	2	15
Girls.....	do.....	do.....	4	40
Boys.....	Barquisimeto.....	Lara.....	4	14
Girls.....	do.....	do.....	2	38
Do.....	Mérida.....	Mérida.....	2	53
Boys.....	Petare.....	Miranda.....	4	45
Girls.....	do.....	do.....	4	56
Boys.....	Maturín.....	Maturín.....	4	25
Girls.....	do.....	do.....	2	30
Boys.....	Cumaná.....	Sucre.....	4	47
Girls.....	do.....	do.....	4	70
Boys.....	Asunción.....	Nueva Esparta.....	4	.....
Girls.....	do.....	do.....	3	35
Boys.....	Guanare.....	Portuguesa.....	4	21
Girls.....	do.....	do.....	4	30
Boys.....	San Cristóbal.....	Táchira.....	4	35
Girls.....	do.....	do.....	2	73
Boys.....	Trujillo.....	Trujillo.....	4	22
Girls.....	do.....	do.....	2	35
Boys.....	San Felipe.....	Yaracuy.....	4	16
Girls.....	do.....	do.....	4	83
Boys.....	Barinas.....	Zamora.....	4	10
Girls.....	do.....	do.....	4	.....
Do.....	Maracaibo.....	Zulia.....	2	43

Municipal colleges and schools, 1903.—The following table, compiled from the report of the governor of the Federal District (1904), shows the number of colleges and schools of the Libertador Department of the Federal District during 1903:

Parishes.	Colleges.	Schools.	Attendance.	
			Boys.	Girls.
San Pablo.....	1	1	368	.....
Catedral.....		1	68	.....
Do.....		1		6
Altavracia.....		1	40	.....
Do.....		1		4
Santa Teresa.....		1	50	.....
Do.....		1		4
Santa Rosalia.....		1	50	.....
Do.....		1		2
Santa Rosalia (dressmaking).....		1		2
Candelaria.....		1	43	.....
Do.....		1		1
San Juan.....		1	60	.....
Do.....		1		.....
La Pastora.....		1	63	.....
Do.....		1		2
San José.....		1		4
Primary (jail).....		1	26	.....
Arts and trades (jail).....		1	41	.....
El Valle.....		1	52	.....
Antimano.....		1	47	.....
Do.....		1		3
La Vega.....		1	38	.....
Do.....		1		1
El Recreo.....		1	44	.....
Macarao.....		1	29	.....
Do.....		1		3

The following table, compiled for the aforesaid report, shows the number of colleges and schools of the Vargas Department of the Federal District in 1903:

Parishes.	Colleges.	Schools.	Attendance.	
			Boys.	Girls.
La Guaira.....	Miranda.....			57
Do.....	Sanz.....			46
Do.....	Vargas.....		60	.....
Do.....	Providencia.....			.....
Do.....		Sucre.....		37
Do.....		Cardonal.....	29	.....
Maiguetia.....		1.....	26	.....
Do.....		1.....		36
Do.....		Cerro de los Cachos.....	a 40	.....
Macuto.....		1.....		29
Do.....		El Cojo.....	a 55
Caraballeda.....		1.....		30
Naguatá.....		1.....	a 23
Caruao.....		1.....	a 20

a Boys and girls.

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Academy of the Spanish language	505
National history academy	505
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Engineering school	506
Mining school	506
Agricultural school	506
Pasteur Institute	506
Seminary	506
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CHAPTER XIV.

PATENT, TRADE-MARK, AND COPYRIGHT REGULATIONS—ARMY AND NAVY METRIC SYSTEM—WEIGHTS, MEASURES, AND VALUES.

PRINCIPAL PATENT REGULATIONS.

Promulgation of law.—The patent law now in force was approved on May 25, 1882, and proclaimed by the President of the Republic on June 2, 1882, repealing the previous law of May 25, 1878.

Requirements of law.—Pursuant to the said law, inventions or discoveries of a new and useful art, machine, manufacture, or material composition, or any new and useful improvement in the same, provided that the invention, discovery, or improvement shall not have been previously known and used by others or patented or described in any publication printed in the Republic or elsewhere, and which shall not have been in use and on sale to the public for more than two years prior to the application for the patent, may be patented in Venezuela.

Applications for patents.—Applications for patents are addressed to the executive power, through the minister of fomento, declaring under oath that the applicant is in fact the inventor or discoverer of the art, machine, manufacture, composition, or improvement sought to be patented.

The fomento department on January 31, 1902, published the following resolution in regard to the requirements of applicants for patents:

“Whereas in view of the frequency with which applications for patents of invention or improvements referred to in article 1 of the patent laws are filed with the Federal Executive without clearly specifying the art, machine, manufacture, or composition of the material that has been improved, and inasmuch as this causes loss of time and trouble to this office as well as to the interested parties, the Federal Executive decrees that every applicant for a patent of invention or improvement shall state in the application, description, drawings, or samples sent to this Department what is the art, machine, manufacture, or composition of materials which has been improved.”

Term of issue.—Patents are issued for the term of five, ten, or fifteen years, and are forfeited in six months, one, or two years after issuance if during that time the discovery is not put into practice.

The letters patent set forth the duration of the same and the time of forfeiture. The law provides the terms in which the patent or concession is to be couched.

Patent tax.—The applications for patents must be accompanied by a voucher showing that the inventor has paid the tax corresponding to one-half the number of years for which the patent is applied for. This tax is 80 bolivars per annum for an invention or discovery and 60 bolivars per annum for improvements. Should no patent be issued the applicant loses the amount paid in, but should the patent be issued the amount is credited to the proper number of years.

Exemption from tax.—The Federal Executive may exempt from the established tax inventors of industrial discoveries or inventions which in its judgment may merit such protection.

Foreign patents.—Foreign letters patent are not an obstacle to obtaining the same in Venezuela unless they have been already issued to another person for the same invention or improvement. With regard to letters patent issued in other countries those issued in Venezuela can not exceed the unexpired time limit of the former.

Deposit of models.—Models, descriptions, and drawings accompanying applications for patents must remain deposited in the fomento department.

PATENT LAW.

[Full text of law.]

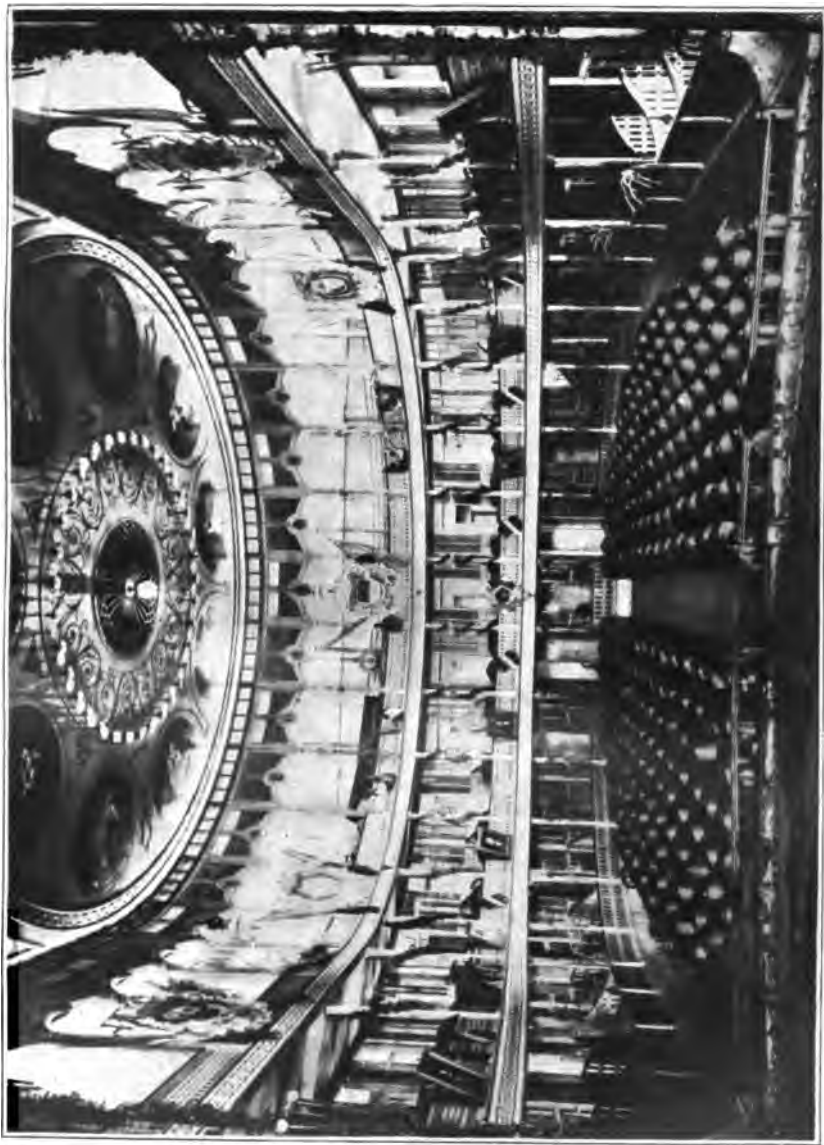
The Congress of the United States of Venezuela decrees:

ARTICLE 1. Any person who invents or discovers any new and useful art, machine, manufacture, or composition of substances, or some new and useful improvement of the aforesaid objects, can obtain a patent of invention after paying the tax established by this law, in accordance with its stipulations, provided the invention, discovery, or improvement be not already known and used by other persons in this country, nor patented and described in printed publication in the Republic or abroad, or been used by the public and sold for more than two years before the date of the application, unless it can be proved that it had been abandoned.

ART. 2. The patents shall be issued by the Federal Executive, in the name of the United States of Venezuela, and countersigned by the minister of fomento.

ART. 3. The Government does not guarantee the exactness, usefulness, or priority of the invention or discovery patented.

ART. 4. Any person wishing to obtain a patent must add to the application a description of the invention or discovery, machine, composition, or improvement, indicating accurately its nature and object. He shall also submit the corresponding drawings or samples.



BARALT THEATER (INTERIOR), MARACAIBO.
(Courtesy of the Zulia Government.)



ART. 5. Applicants in their petitions for patents must declare, under oath, that they are really the inventors or discoverers of the art, machine, manufacture, composition, or improvement for which they desire a patent. All controversies which may arise through the inaccuracy of declarations shall be submitted by the interested parties to the Federal courts of justice.

ART. 6. Patents shall be granted for a term of five, ten, or fifteen years, and become extinct six months, one year, or two years after they have been granted if during these terms the invention or discovery for which the patent has been granted has not been put into practice.

Sole paragraph.—The patent shall specify the term within which it lapses, and the time granted for its duration shall be reckoned from the date on which the patent shall have been granted.

ART. 7. Applications for patents shall be addressed to the Federal Executive through the minister of fomento.

ART. 8. After having complied with the provisions established in this law, a patent shall be issued to the petitioner, which shall empower him to put into practice his invention, discovery, or improvement within the United States of Venezuela and its territories. This patent shall be issued by the Federal Executive through the department of fomento, according to the form immediately following the present article, and shall contain a short title or description of the invention or discovery, setting forth precisely its nature and purpose, and a concession to the patentee, his heirs or assigns, for the exclusive right to manufacture, use, or sell the invention or discovery.

FORM.

“The President of the Republic, with the affirmative vote of the Federal council.

“Whereas X has applied to the Federal Executive for a patent for [here the industry], and having complied with the provisions established by the respective law [date of the law]:

“Therefore, according to article 8 of the aforesaid law, and in the name of the United States of Venezuela, I issue unto him the present patent for the exclusive right of working the above-described industry for a period of ——— years. The Federal Executive does not guarantee the exactness, usefulness, or priority of the discovery or invention patented.

“This patent shall lapse after ———, to be reckoned from this date, if during this lapse of time the aforesaid industry be not put into practice.

“Signed, sealed, and countersigned in the Federal palace of Caracas, etc.”

ART. 9. Patents are subject to a yearly tax of 80 bolivars (\$16 United States currency) when granted for an invention or discovery and to a yearly tax of 60 bolivars (\$12) when granted for improved methods.

ART. 10. The amount of the tax mentioned in the above article shall be deposited in the national treasury of public service. Any person desiring to obtain a patent from the Federal Executive shall, on applying for it according to article 7, attach to his petition a voucher proving that he has paid the tax corresponding to half the number of years for which the patent is asked.

In case the patent can not be granted according to the provisions of this law, the petitioner shall forfeit the sum deposited as a tax in favor of popular instruction; and when the patent is granted to him this sum shall be deducted from the aggregate he shall have to pay during the term the patent lasts.

Sole paragraph.—The Federal Executive can exempt from the tax established by article 9 of this law all inventors of discoveries or industrial products worthy of this protection in its opinion.

ART. 11. Whoever has obtained a patent can express the circumstance in his advertisements or trade-marks without this fact being held as a guaranty from the Government as to the quality of the production, or as to the priority of the invention or discovery, or to hold good against the better right of a third party.

ART. 12. Whoever has obtained a patent in a foreign country for an invention or discovery can also obtain it in Venezuela, provided another person has not already obtained it.

Sole paragraph.—In the latter case the patent will only be granted for a lapse of time equal to that lacking for the expiration of the patent granted in the other country.

ART. 13. When the term for which a patent has been granted expires the description of the discovery or invention to which it refers shall be published in the Official Gazette, and from that date it can be freely worked, as also the manufacture or sale of the products of industry which was guaranteed by the patent.

ART. 14. The same publication shall be made when, after granting a patent, it becomes extinct before being put into practice, according to article 6 of this law, or when it be declared null and void before the time due, except in the first case of article 18.

ART. 15. The descriptions, drawings, and samples attached to petitions for patents shall be deposited in the fomento department.

ART. 16. The Federal Executive, after receiving an application for a patent, shall order its publication in the Official Gazette, and in case the patent be granted, it shall only be issued thirty days after its publication.

ART. 17. Inventions, improvements, or new industries which are a menace to public health and public security, or against morality or previously acquired rights, can not be patented.

Sole paragraph.—Nor can patents be granted for medicines, compositions, or drugs of any kind or shape, these being subject to special laws and regulations.

ART. 18. Besides the cases of article 6, patents granted shall be of no value when a decision of the Federal courts declares them as conflicting with the rights of a third party, and when the new industry patented ceases to be worked consecutively during a whole year, except in fortuitous cases or cases of superior force.

ART. 19. Damages against property guaranteed by a patent shall be decided by the corresponding codes in the Federal courts of justice.

ART. 20. The law on this subject promulgated on May 25, 1878, is hereby repealed.

Given at the palace of the Federal legislative council, in Caracas, on May 25, 1882, nineteenth year of the law and twenty-fourth of federation.

The president of the senate, J. P. Rojas Paúl. The president of the chamber of deputies, A. Cova. The secretary of the senate, M. Caballero. The secretary of the chamber of deputies, J. Nicomedes Ramírez.

PRINCIPAL TRADE-MARK REGULATIONS.

Promulgation of law.—The trade-mark law now in force was promulgated on May 18, 1877.

Requirements of law.—Any person or association residing in the Republic, or any corporations created by the national authority, may solicit and obtain the protection and guaranty of any legitimate trade-mark, to the use of which they have the exclusive right, provided they comply with the legal requirements. These requirements consist of filing with the department of fomento an application in the name of the applicant, on stamped paper of the seventh class, setting forth his name, residence, and commercial domicile, the kind of articles for which the trade-mark is used, a full description of these articles and of the trade-mark, with facsimiles of the latter, showing its application and method of use, and giving the time the said trade-mark has been in use in case it has been previously employed.

Applications for trade-marks.—The application should be signed by the interested party or by his legal representative, and should state that he has a right to the use of the trade-mark, and that the latter bears no similarity whatever to those previously issued to other parties, and that it can not be mistaken for these or occasion deception.

Registration of trade-marks.—Facsimiles, as well as the descriptions and exact copies of the trade-marks, must be registered.

Rejection of applications.—The fomento department will not receive applications for trade-marks from any person, association, or corporation which do not have some feature sufficient to distinguish them from

those of the same name when in use by different persons or when applied to the same class of object, or which are intended in some way to deceive the public.

Term of issue.—The fomento department, after the legal requirements have been complied with and in case no protest is filed, issues a certificate on stamped paper of the third class, declaring that the applicant is the owner of the trade-mark registered, with all its specifications, and this certificate will serve as a title, being duly registered and bearing the seal of the department.

The exclusive right to the use of a trade-mark of articles not protected by the laws of other countries will remain impaired and in force for the term of thirty years, reckoned from the date of registration.

Renewal of term.—During the six months preceding the expiration of this term of thirty years application may be made for a renewal, and the term may be extended for a like period by the issuance of a new certificate similar to the original instrument.

Penalties for false representations.—False representations or declarations, as well as any other fraudulent means employed in the application for trade-marks, subject those guilty of the same to the penalties established by the criminal code of procedure, besides the civil liability to interested third parties.

Foreign trade-marks registered.—Foreign trade-marks registered abroad may also be registered in the fomento department, whether international treaties or conventions on the subject exist or not, whenever, in the judgment of the National Executive, the manufactures or articles they protect are deemed to have demonstrated their usefulness.

TRADE-MARKS LAW.

[Full text of law.]

The Congress of the United States of Venezuela decrees:

ARTICLE 1. Any person or company domiciled in the Republic and any corporation created by national authority or by the Federal States or Territories, as well as any person, company, or corporation domiciled in a foreign country in which, by virtue of a treaty or agreement, Venezuelans have the same or analogous rights as those granted by this law, can obtain protection or guaranty covering any legitimate trade or commerce mark for the use of which an exclusive right has been granted, or the adoption or use of which is desired for this purpose, provided the requirements of the present law have been complied with.

ART. 2. Any person desiring to obtain official protection for a trade or commerce mark shall file before the minister of fomento a petition on sealed paper of the seventh class, expressing the name of the interested person, his residence, and business domicile; the kind of arti-

cle or merchandise covered or intended to be covered by the trade or commerce mark; the peculiar description of the articles or objects included in the class covered or intended to be covered by the trade-mark; a description of the same, with facsimiles in which can be seen its application and use; and, finally, the time during which the trade-mark has already been in use, in case that it should not be the first time that its use or application is petitioned for.

ART. 3. Said petition shall be signed by the interested person, or by the person representing him, provided he can show a power of attorney in due form from the owner or owners of the trade-mark, also stating in writing that the person petitioning for the trade or commerce mark has the right to use it, and that said trade-mark does not resemble any other analogous one already registered, so that it could not be mistaken for it and thus deceive the public. The interested party shall also assert that the aforesaid description or facsimiles which are to be registered in the corresponding book are exact copies of the trade-mark for which protection is asked.

ART. 4. The minister of fomento shall not receive or register a trade or commerce mark which is not and can never be a lawful mark, or which is merely the name of a person, company, or corporation not accompanied by a mark sufficient to distinguish it from the same name when used by another person, or that the mark be equal to another covering the same class of objects and belonging to another person, or that the said mark be registered or presented to be registered, or that it be so much like the last-mentioned trade-mark that it can be easily mistaken for it and thus deceive the public.

ART. 5. When any trade or commerce mark is submitted to the department of fomento to obtain the protection which this law grants the date of submittal shall be recorded and registered, and copies of the trade-mark, with the date of its presentation and of the petition addressed to the minister of fomento, sealed with seal of the department and certified by the minister, shall be considered sufficient proof in case a controversy should arise as to priority for the use of the trade-mark.

ART. 6. When the established provisions have been complied with, the National Executive, through the department of fomento, shall issue to the interested party, provided there is no opposition from a third party, a certificate *in national sealed paper of the third class, which the interested party is to provide*, in which it shall be declared that said person is the proprietor of the trade or commerce mark registered with all its specifications. Said certificate, which shall be sufficient title for the registrar, shall be signed by the minister of fomento and sealed with the seal of the department.

ART. 7. The exclusive right for the use of all trade or commerce marks registered and certified in the above-mentioned manner shall be

in complete legal force for a term of thirty years, to be reckoned from the date of registration, with the exception of the case when the mark covers articles manufactured abroad and in which the same mark is protected, according to the law of a foreign country, for a shorter period; then the mark registered by virtue of this law shall cease to enjoy the official protection which it grants at the same time when protection granted by the foreign law ceases.

ART. 8. All trade-marks registered in the aforesaid manner shall empower the person, company, or corporation who has registered them to use them exclusively, provided the objects or merchandise be substantially of the same properties and conditions as those described and consigned in the registry.

ART. 9. During six months prior to the expiration of the term of thirty years the petitioner can ask for the renewal of the registry of any trade or commerce mark, and this shall be granted under the same conditions as when first given, in a title written on sealed paper of the same class as formerly. The duration of this registration shall be for thirty years, as in the first case.

ART. 10. No person can legally claim the exclusive right to a trade-mark which is used or is intended for use in unlawful trade, or for an object noxious in itself, or for a trade-mark which has been obtained by fraud, or which has been formed or used with a view of deceiving the public when buying or selling any merchandise.

ART. 11. Any person endeavoring to obtain personally, or through some one else, the registration of any trade or commerce mark, or who may petition the fomento department for anything which bears on this subject, by means of false or fraudulent representations or declarations in words or in writing, or by any other fraudulent means, shall be subject to the penalties established by the criminal code, notwithstanding which the third party has always a right of claim for damages.

ART. 12. Any person found reproducing, imitating, or copying a registered trade-mark, or using it on any merchandise containing the same properties and qualities as those described in the registry, is held answerable before the court for the damages caused by the illegal use of such a mark, without being held free in cases of fraud from suffering the penalties established by the criminal code.

ART. 13. All that which relates to the registry referred to in the present law shall be in charge of the section which has charge of privileges or patents in the fomento department.

ART. 14. The section mentioned in the above article shall have two books for registry, which shall be renewed each time that it be necessary, one for registering trade-marks and the other for commercial marks, and a file is to be formed separately in every case.

ART. 15. The National Executive shall establish the rules and regu-

lations necessary for carrying out the present law, and shall publish every year in the respective report of the department the lithographed trade or commerce marks registered, and can give access to the registers to any person petitioning therefor, and allow the publication of engravings of said marks.

ART. 16. Trade or commerce marks of foreign products or merchandise registered in other countries can also be registered in the fomento department, although there be no international treaties or conventions in existence on the subject, when the products or merchandise are of recognized utility in the Republic in the opinion of the National Executive.

Given and signed in the palace of the Federal Legislature at Caracas on May 18, 1877, fourteenth year of the law and the nineteenth of federation.

The president of Senate, Diego B. Urbaneja; the president of the Deputies, Laurencio Silva; the secretary Senator, M. Caballero; the secretary Deputy, F. Tosta García.

PRINCIPAL COPYRIGHT PROVISIONS.

The copyright law now in force in Venezuela bears the date of June 30, 1894. The following is an abstract of its principal provisions.

The term "author" shall mean every person who has composed a scientific, literary, or artistic work, and the term "translator" includes all persons who reproduce an original work or composition in a language other than that in which it was composed. The rights which authors and translators have to their productions shall be considered as sacred and inviolable as their rights over any other kind of property. The right of property over a literary work lawfully belongs to its author, and a translation to the translator, if no international agreement provides otherwise. No one may reproduce the work of another without the previous permission of the author or owner, even when it be reproduced with notes, glossaries, and additions which improve the previous edition; but anyone may publish commentaries, criticisms, and notes on any work whatsoever, including therein only the fragments or texts necessary for the purpose.

COPYRIGHT LAW.^a

[Full text of law.]

The Congress of the United States of Venezuela decrees:

ARTICLE 1. For the purposes of the present decree and the rights thereby secured the term "author" shall mean every person who has composed a scientific, literary, or artistic work; and the term "trans-

^a Compilation of Laws and Decrees of Venezuela, Vol. XVII, p. 400.

lator" shall include all persons who reproduce an original work or composition in a language other than that in which it was composed.

ART. 2. The right which an author has over a work which he has composed and the right which translators acquire over the works or compositions which they have translated constitute intellectual property; this shall be as sacred and inviolable as any other kind of property and shall be subject to the civil law unless otherwise provided by statute.

ART. 3. The right of property over a literary work lawfully belongs to its author, and as regards a "translation" it belongs to the translator if no international agreement provides otherwise.

ART. 4. The right to intellectual property is from its nature perpetual and is insured by the present law to:

1. Authors, in respect of their works;
2. Translators, in respect of their translations;
3. Those who recast, abridge, extract, or reproduce original or translated works with the permission and good will of their proprietors;
4. Editors of unpublished works which have no known owner, or if the authors do not lawfully assert their rights;
5. Those who acquire the right of ownership over any work, whether scientific, literary, or artistic, by purchase or any other transfer of title;
6. The heirs and representatives of those persons referred to in the above subsections; and

7. The nation, in case of the death of the owner without lawful heirs.

ART. 5. Intellectual property is transmissible by deed; and the assigned work shall belong in perpetuity to the assignee provided that in the transfer of ownership the rules and regulations of the civil law have been observed.

ART. 6. The author of a scientific, literary, or artistic work is the only person who has the right to issue or reissue it or to authorize its issue in any form whatever, and in the manner by law established.

ART. 7. The right to translate a scientific or literary work or to permit the same to be translated belongs to the author.

ART. 8. When two or more authors have collaborated to produce a work, the right of ownership, in the absence of agreement to the contrary, belongs equally to all the collaborators, and their respective representatives and any or either of the coowners may prosecute all persons who trespass on his or their rights and obtain a decision in a contested action before the Tribunal of the Republic.

ART. 9. No one may reproduce the work of another without the previous permission of the author or owner, even when it is reproduced with notes, glossaries and additions which improve the previous edition; but anyone may publish commentaries, criticisms, and notes on any work whatsoever, including therein only the fragments or texts necessary for the purpose.

ART. 10. As regards works of art and especially in musical productions, every reproduction which alters the original shall be esteemed and punished as a fraud on the rights secured by the present law; and it shall be necessary to obtain the previous consent of its author or his representatives in order to reproduce or copy in the same or other dimensions the work of another.

ART. 11. The publisher of any anonymous or pseudonymous work shall be held to be its author, saving always the rights of third parties, who on proving that he or they is or are the author or authors of the work published may establish the right which legally belongs to him or them.

ART. 12. The translator of a work has only the right of ownership over his translation and can not raise objection to others translating the same work.

ART. 13. The legal transferee of a work, whether scientific, literary, musical, or painting, sculpture, etc., may not in any way whatever alter it, for the purpose of publishing or reproducing it, without the previous consent of the author or his representatives.

ART. 14. As regards scientific and literary works, intellectual property shall mean all manifestations of ideas, whether spoken or written, including not only works which are published, but writings of every kind; and therefore the following shall not be published without the consent of their author, whether in pamphlet or in any other form:

1. Oral lessons and lectures taught or spoken by any person;
2. Pleadings or forensic writings (briefs) produced before any tribunal or court whatsoever by an advocate or attorney; and
3. Parliamentary and academic discourses or of any other class, the former of which may be printed only in the Congressional Record (Diarios de Debates) of the legislative chambers or in the political newspapers, and the latter only in the said newspapers, without the consent of their authors.

Sole paragraph.—This provision shall not affect the power of the courts and tribunals to issue copies and certificates.

ART. 15. The authors of the writings and discourses referred to in the preceding article may publish or reproduce them in single sheets or in any other convenient form.

ART. 16. The author or owner of a literary or musical work which it is desired to represent or execute without his consent in a theater or other public place whatsoever may apply to the first political authority of the district to safeguard his rights, and the said authority shall order the representation or execution of the said work to be suspended, provided the complainant justifies his opposition.

ART. 17. If, in spite of the prohibition, the representation or execution of the work should take place, the entrance money or total product of the function or show shall belong to the owner of the

work, to whom it shall be paid over by the authority as soon as it has been recovered by a short and summary process.

ART. 18. The author or owner of every dramatic or musical composition has the right to claim from all persons concerned the product of the representation or execution of his work in a theater or place of public amusement, and shall for this purpose proceed in accordance with the rules of civil law.

ART. 19. Should a lyric-dramatic work be represented which is the outcome of collaboration between the composer of the libretto and that of the music, the entrance money or product of the function shall belong equally to the proprietors of the work unless otherwise agreed.

ART. 20. Both the author of the libretto and the author of the musical part in lyric-dramatic works produced in collaboration may print and sell separately the respective parts which belong to each of them, and in the musical part may be included the words that belong to it.

ART. 21. In order to sustain the rights assured by the present law and to prosecute every trespass thereon, a registry or index shall be established in which the name, surname, and residence of the author or translator and such other requisites and formalities as are hereinafter provided shall be entered.

ART. 22. The index referred to in the preceding article shall be kept by opening a registry in the office of the governor of the Federal district and in the office of each president of a State, and such scientific, literary, and artistic works as are presented at the respective offices shall be recorded for the purposes of the present law.

ART. 23. The record or index above mentioned shall be kept in each office in a bound and paged volume, signed by the respective presidents of the States and by the governor of the Federal district.

ART. 24. On entering a work in the register the following circumstances shall be noted:

1. The given name, surname, and residence of the applicant.
2. The title of the work.
3. The given name and surname of the author, translator, compiler, etc.
4. The place and year of printing.
5. The edition, size, number of volumes and pages of which the work consists, and such other data as in the opinion of the party interested should be registered for the greater security of his rights.

ART. 25. In order to enjoy the benefits of this law the author or translator of the work or his duly qualified representative shall, before printing, engraving, or lithographing the same, transmit to the governor of the Federal district or to the president of the respective State a memorial containing the title of the work or composition and asking that it be registered and a license be issued to him

in order that he may enjoy the advantages of authorship which rightly belong to him.

ART. 26. On receipt of the said memorial the president or governor shall cause the applicant to make oath before him that the said original work or translation which is presented has not been previously printed, engraved, or lithographed, either in this country or abroad, and when the oath has been duly taken he shall cause the title to be registered in the index mentioned in article 21.

ART. 27. After the registration has been effected the president or governor shall issue to the applicant a license, sealed with the seal of the state or Federal district, and which shall be in the following terms:

"I, N. N., governor of the Federal district or president of the State (here the name of the State) make known that (here the name of the applicant) has appeared before me and claimed the exclusive right to publish and sell a work, the same being his property, the title of which has been deposited in this office, and is (here the title of the work), and that he having duly taken the oath required by law, I put him in possession of the right granted by the said law.

"Given at (here the place and date where and when the license was issued, and below the signature of the president or governor, countersigned by the respective secretary)."

ART. 28. In the register, which is kept in Caracas or in the capital of each State, there shall be entered in the same way as the title of written works those of engravings, lithographs, architectural plans, geographical, and every other kind of charts which it is desired to put under the protection of this law.

In these works the note "Registered according to law" shall be put at the foot thereof, signed by the respective authority.

ART. 29. The license which guarantees the rights assured by this law shall be printed on the back of the page containing the title of the work and shall be published in the Official Gazette four times at least.

ART. 30. Nothing whatsoever shall be paid for entering a work in the register and issuing the license mentioned in the above articles, but the license must be drawn up on the proper sealed paper.

ART. 31. The proprietor of a work shall deliver to the office where it has been registered six copies thereof; one shall remain deposited in the said office and the others shall be transmitted to the minister of public instruction.

ART. 32. The offense of plagiarizing a work to the detriment of the owner of the literary work shall be punished in accordance with the penal code, and all persons who fraudulently commit any act or proceedings against the said owner and all persons who knowingly sell, or have in their stores or shops with intent to sell, or import into the country, plagiarized works shall be guilty of the said offense.

The apparent authors of the fraud shall in the first place be respon-

sible for the commission thereof, and in their default the publisher or printer, unless they prove their innocence.

ART. 33. Besides the punishment which is inflicted on counterfeiters and falsifiers under the penal law, they shall suffer the confiscation and loss of all the copies of the counterfeit work, which shall be handed over to the defrauded owner, and the plates, molds, and matrices and other implements which have been used in the perpetration of the offense shall be destroyed by the proper tribunal.

ART. 34. Every endeavor to conceal the crime, such as changing the title of the work or altering the text for publication, shall be considered an aggravating circumstance.

ART. 35. Every infraction of the present law shall be prosecuted by the courts or tribunals, on the application of the injured person or persons who may institute civil and criminal proceedings concurrently.

ART. 36. In the course of the above-mentioned proceedings the judge or tribunal who takes cognizance of the cause shall appoint two competent persons to describe and examine the works and objects which are thought to be falsified, and they shall give their opinion thereon.

ART. 37. The Government of the Republic may make such agreements and stipulations with friendly nations as it may deem expedient for better carrying into execution the doctrines on which this law is founded, but may never grant greater or other rights than those assured by the Venezuelan legislation to intellectual property.

ART. 38. The ownership of posthumous works belongs to the heirs or representatives of their respective authors, and in this class shall be included such as the author left recast, added to, annotated, and corrected, thus improving the previous productions.

ART. 39. The law of May 12, 1887, concerning intellectual property, is hereby repealed.

Given at the palace of the federal legislative body, at Caracas, the 17th day of May, 1894, eighty-third year of the independence, and thirty-sixth of the federation.

The president of the Chamber of the Senate, Vicente Amengual; the president of the Chamber of Deputies, J. Francisco Castillo; the secretary of the Chamber of the Senate, Francisco Pimentel; the secretary of the Chamber of Deputies, J. A. Bosa.

Federal palace, in Caracas, June 30, 1894, eighty-third year of the independence and thirty-sixth of the federation.

Let it be communicated and published, Joaquín Crespo. Counter-signed, the minister of public instruction, Luis Epeloso.

ARMY.

Military service compulsory.—Military service is compulsory for all Venezuelan citizens over 21 years of age and less than 50. (Mil. Code 1903, art. 1.)

Organization of the army.—The national army is divided into active army and reserve army. Congress establishes every year the number of officers and men who are to be under arms.

Reserve army.—The reserve army consists of all Venezuelans who form the militia of the federal district and the States, organized according the constitution to form in turns the active army and ready for the national defense, but without being in arms.

Active army.—The active army consists of the contingent from the reserve furnished to the Government by the federal district and States of the union according to the annual law of Congress. All persons serving in the army in whatever capacity are comprised in the active army and subject to the provisions of the military code.

Forces.—The active army is divided into land and maritime forces, which depend from the federal Executive according to the provisions of the military and naval codes. The active army consists of the following branches: Infantry, artillery, and cavalry.

Units.—The units of tactics of these branches are the infantry battalion, artillery battery, and cavalry squadron.

Infantry battalions.—The staff consists of a general or colonel in command, a colonel or lieutenant-colonel second in command, a lieutenant-colonel instructor, a captain adjutant, a paymaster, a lieutenant adjutant, a second lieutenant, flag bearer, a brigade sergeant, a drummer, and a bugler. Battalions consist of 400 privates, divided into 4 companies, commanded each by a captain, 2 lieutenants, and 2 second lieutenants. Each company has a sergeant-major, 4 second, 4 corporals, 4 second, 3 band privates, and 84 soldiers, and is divided into 4 sections numbered from 1 to 4.

Artillery Batteries.—Artillery is divided into camp, mountain, fort, siege, and coast artillery. Each battery besides the respective staff and soldiers has four cannon with their respective appurtenances.

Cavalry squadrons.—Besides the staff of commissioned and non-commissioned officers the squadron consists of 100 men, divided into four sections.

Brigades.—At least two battalions are necessary to form a brigade.

Divisions.—Two brigades form a division, which consists of two infantry, one artillery, and one cavalry brigade. Only in exceptional cases can they consist of one or two branches of the military service.

General staff.—Divisions of the army have each a general staff.

Object of the army.—(1) To defend the integrity, independence, and liberty of the nation; (2) To maintain public order; (3) To maintain the enforcement of the constitution and laws; (4) To give its support to federal authorities and functionaries lawfully established; (5) To protect persons and property according to law; (6) To carry into execution the military service that may be assigned to it by the federal Executive.

Military schools and academies.—Each battalion, battery, or squadron has a military school for privates and a military academy for officers.

On July 4, 1903, the Military Academy of Venezuela was decreed by the Federal Executive as a central military academy for all branches of the service, to impart military training for the graduation of infantry, artillery, cavalry, engineer, and general-staff officers.

Military instruction board.—There shall be a permanent chief board of military instruction in the Federal District, with its respective staff, which has charge of all matters pertaining to the promotion, development, and regulation of military academies in Venezuela.

Military hospital.—On July 3, 1903, the Federal Executive decreed the establishment of a military hospital in the Federal District.

Military authorities.—The Army has the following military authorities:

An inspector-general of the army; a commander of the forces in the Federal District and in every one of the States of the Union; a civil and military commander in the Bolívar, Barcelona, and Falcón States; a military commander at La Guaira, Puerto Cabello, Carúpano, Cumaná, the Zaraza district, Güiría, Irapa and Yaguaraparo, and Yaracuy; a commander of the Vigía and San Carlos forts, at La Guaira; a commander of Fort Solano, at Puerto Cabello; a commander of the Campo Elías and Villapol forts, in the Bolívar State, and a commander of the San Carlos fortress, at Maracaibo.

War and navy budget.—The following table shows the sums expended in this budget from 1899 to 1903, namely:

1899.....	\$1, 008, 900
1900.....	571, 438
1901.....	1, 678, 323
1902.....	3, 271, 257
1903.....	2, 614, 004

• NAVY.

Organization.—The navy consists of all the war ships, armed or unarmed, belonging to the nation or that may be so declared, for the defense of the coast or any other service that may be assigned to it. The navy is divided into active and reserve. To the latter belong all ships owned by Venezuelan citizens. The navy is further divided into squadrons of fleets, and these into naval divisions. Each squadron consists of at least three ships.

Naval service compulsory.—All Venezuelans, not otherwise exempted by the laws, devoted to navigation or any maritime work are obliged to serve in the navy for two years.

Naval forces.—Congress determines every year the number of officers and men of which the Venezuelan navy is to consist. The marines are supplied from the contingent which each State has to contribute for the national army. Only when naturalized are aliens allowed to serve in the navy.

Object of the navy.—(1) To defend the integrity, independence, and liberty of the nation; (2) maintain peace and public order in the waters and coasts of the Republic; (3) sustain the constitution and laws; (4) to prevent vessels not legally cleared from navigating in Venezuelan waters, having power to seize them; (5) to watch outside the ports of the nation to prevent any act of piracy or violation of Venezuelan laws; (6) to fulfill any service assigned to it by the Venezuelan Federal Executive.

Naval rank.—The equivalence between naval and military rank is as follows:

The President of the Republic when in command in time of war is the ranking officer of the navy. The list of rank and file is as follows:

Commodore equal to general in chief.
 Captain of warship equal to division general.
 Captain of frigate equal to brigadier-general.
 Naval lieutenant equal to colonel.
 Frigate lieutenant equal to lieutenant-colonel.
 Naval ensign equal to captain.
 Frigate ensign equal to first lieutenant.
 Guard equal to ensign.
 Boatswain equal to first sergeant.
 Quartermaster equal to second sergeant.
 First-class marine equal to first corporal.
 Second-class marine equal to second corporal.
 Marine equal to private.

Commissioned officers are those holding rank from guard upward.

Naval schools.—There is a nautical school on board each Venezuelan man-of-war, in which, besides naval and military matters, an extensive programme of studies is followed. Naval officers graduate from this school. On board each war ship there is a naval school for officers and men.

Venezuelan navy.—The Venezuelan navy consists at present of the following men-of-war: *Restaurador*, *Bolívar*, *Zamora*, *Zumbador*, *Miranda*, *Margarita*, and *23 de Mayo*.

Revenue cutters.—There are 17 vessels assigned to the revenue-cutter service and 3 to that of the salt deposits.

Regulations for preventing collisions at sea.—Since 1897 Venezuela promulgated a decree regulating the movements of vessels, the provisions of which decree are similar to those adopted by the International Marine Conference held in Washington, United States of America, in October, 1889.

Foreign men-of-war.—They can not remain more than one month in any Venezuelan port without applying to the local naval authority for permission to do so.

METRIC SYSTEM.

From the time of the Conquest to the year 1800 Venezuela had the old Spanish system of weights and measures. The system was

modified on January 26, 1801, and remained thus in force until October 11, 1821.

On February 13, 1857, the Venezuelan Congress decreed the adoption of the metric system, but it was not definitely put into practice until the year 1873, and since then it has been the only legal system in use for weights and measures. The following are the equivalents of the old system for some weights and measures: 1 coffee bag=46 kilos, 1 cacao bag=50 kilos, 1 pound=46 kilos, 1 fanega (corn)=212 pounds, 1 fanega (salt)=280 pounds, 1 fanega (potatoes)=240 pounds, other fanegas=216 pounds, 1 quintal=100 pounds.

METRIC AND OTHER WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

The following tables have been compiled and abridged from the circular of information (No. 4) of the United States Bureau of Statistics, entitled "Tables of Equivalents," first edition, 1903:

Length (inches and millimeters)—Equivalents of decimal and common fractions of an inch in millimeters.

[From $\frac{1}{4}$ to 1 inch.]

$\frac{1}{4}$ in.	$\frac{1}{2}$ in.	8ths.	16ths.	32ds.	64ths.	Millimeters.	Decimals of an inch.	Inch.	$\frac{1}{4}$ in.	$\frac{1}{2}$ in.	8ths.	16ths.	32ds.	64ths.	Millimeters.	Decimals of an inch.		
					1	= 0.397	0.015625							33	= 13.097	0.515625		
					2	= .794	.03125						17	34	= 13.494	.53125		
					3	= 1.191	.046875							35	= 13.891	.546875		
			1	2	4	= 1.588	.0625					9	18	36	= 14.288	.5625		
					5	= 1.984	.078125							37	= 14.694	.578125		
				8	6	= 2.381	.09375						19	38	= 15.081	.59375		
					7	= 2.778	.109375							39	= 15.478	.609375		
			1	2	4	8	= 3.175	.1250				5	10	20	40	= 15.875	.625	
					9	= 3.572	.140625							41	= 16.272	.640625		
				5	10	= 3.969	.15625						21	42	= 16.669	.65625		
					11	= 4.366	.171875							43	= 17.066	.671875		
			3	6	12	= 4.763	.1875					11	22	44	= 17.463	.6875		
					13	= 5.159	.203125							45	= 17.859	.703125		
				7	14	= 5.556	.21875						23	46	= 18.256	.71875		
					15	= 5.953	.234375							47	= 18.653	.734375		
			1	2	4	8	16	= 6.350	.2500			3	6	12	24	48	= 19.050	.75
					17	= 6.747	.265625							49	= 19.447	.765625		
					9	= 7.144	.28125						25	50	= 19.844	.78125		
					19	= 7.541	.296875							51	= 20.241	.796875		
				5	10	20	= 7.938	.3125				13	26	52	= 20.638	.8125		
					21	= 8.334	.328125							53	= 21.034	.828125		
					22	= 8.731	.34375						27	54	= 21.431	.84375		
					23	= 9.128	.359375							55	= 21.828	.859375		
			3	6	12	24	= 9.525	.3750				7	14	28	56	= 22.225	.875	
					25	= 9.922	.390625							57	= 22.622	.890625		
					13	= 10.319	.40625						29	58	= 23.019	.90625		
					27	= 10.716	.421875							59	= 23.416	.921875		
				7	14	28	= 11.113	.4375				15	30	60	= 23.813	.9375		
					29	= 11.509	.453125							61	= 24.209	.953125		
					15	= 11.906	.46875						31	62	= 24.606	.96875		
					31	= 12.303	.484375							63	= 25.003	.984375		
1	2	4	8	16	32	= 12.700	.5	1	2	4	8	16	32	64	= 25.400	1.000		

Lengths—Hundredths of an inch to millimeters.

[From 1 to 100 hundredths.]

Hun- dredths of an inch.	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	0	0.254	0.508	0.762	1.016	1.270	1.524	1.778	2.032	2.286
10	2.540	2.794	3.048	3.302	3.556	3.810	4.064	4.318	4.572	4.826
20	5.080	5.334	5.588	5.842	6.096	6.350	6.604	6.858	7.112	7.366
30	7.620	7.874	8.128	8.382	8.636	8.890	9.144	9.398	9.652	9.906
40	10.160	10.414	10.668	10.922	11.176	11.430	11.684	11.938	12.192	12.446
50	12.700	12.954	13.208	13.462	13.716	13.970	14.224	14.478	14.732	14.986
60	15.240	15.494	15.748	16.002	16.256	16.510	16.764	17.018	17.272	17.526
70	17.780	18.034	18.288	18.542	18.796	19.050	19.304	19.558	19.812	20.066
80	20.320	20.574	20.828	21.082	21.336	21.590	21.844	22.098	22.352	22.606
90	22.860	23.114	23.368	23.622	23.876	24.130	24.384	24.638	24.892	25.146

Lengths—Millimeters to decimals of an inch.

[From 1 to 100 units.]

Milli- meters.	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	0	0.03937	0.07874	0.11811	0.15748	0.19685	0.23622	0.27559	0.31496	0.35433
10	0.39370	.43307	.47244	.51181	.55118	.59055	.62992	.66929	.70866	.74803
20	.78740	.82677	.86614	.90551	.94488	.98425	1.02362	1.06299	1.10236	1.14173
30	1.18110	1.22047	1.25984	1.29921	1.33858	1.37795	1.41732	1.45669	1.49606	1.53543
40	1.57480	1.61417	1.65354	1.69291	1.73228	1.77165	1.81102	1.85039	1.88976	1.92913
50	1.96850	2.00787	2.04724	2.08661	2.12598	2.16535	2.20472	2.24409	2.28346	2.32283
60	2.36220	2.40157	2.44094	2.48031	2.51968	2.55905	2.59842	2.63779	2.67716	2.71653
70	2.75590	2.79527	2.83464	2.87401	2.91338	2.95275	2.99212	3.03149	3.07086	3.11023
80	3.14960	3.18897	3.22834	3.26771	3.30708	3.34645	3.38582	3.42519	3.46456	3.50393
90	3.54330	3.58267	3.62204	3.66141	3.70078	3.74015	3.77952	3.81889	3.85826	3.89763

Comparison of metric and customary units from 1 to 10.

LENGTHS.

Inches.	Millime- ters.	Inches.	Centime- ters.	Feet.	Meters.	U.S. yards.	Meters.	U.S. miles.	Kilome- ters.
0.03937	= 1	0.3937	= 1	1	= 0.304801	1	= 0.914402	0.62137	= 1
.07874	= 2	.7874	= 2	2	= .609601	2	= 1.828804	1	= 1.60935
.11811	= 3	1	= 2.54001	3	= .914402	3	= 2.743206	1.26274	= 3
.15748	= 4	1.1811	= 3	3	= 1.219202	4	= 3.657607	1.86411	= 4
.19685	= 5	1.5748	= 4	4	= 1.524003	5	= 4.572009	2	= 3.21869
.23622	= 6	1.9685	= 5	5	= 1.828804	6	= 5.486066	2.48548	= 5
.27559	= 7	2	= 5.08001	6	= 2.133604	7	= 6.400813	3	= 4.82804
.31496	= 8	2.3622	= 6	6	= 2.438405	8	= 7.315215	3.10685	= 6
.35433	= 9	2.7559	= 7	7	= 2.743206	9	= 8.229616	3.72822	= 7
1	= 25.4001	3	= 7.62002	8	= 2.438405	5.468066	= 5	4	= 6.43739
2	= 50.8001	3.1496	= 8	9	= 2.743206	6	= 5.486411	4	= 6.400813
3	= 76.2002	3.5433	= 9	9.84250	= 3	6.561667	= 6	4.97096	= 8
4	= 101.6002	4	= 10.16002	13.12338	= 4	7	= 6.400813	5	= 8.04674
5	= 127.0008	5	= 12.70008	16.40417	= 5	7.655278	= 7	5.59283	= 9
6	= 152.4008	6	= 15.24008	19.68500	= 6	8	= 7.315215	6	= 9.65606
7	= 177.8004	7	= 17.78004	22.96583	= 7	8.748889	= 8	7	= 11.26543
8	= 203.2004	8	= 20.32004	26.24667	= 8	9	= 8.229616	8	= 12.87478
9	= 228.6005	9	= 22.86005	29.52750	= 9	9.842500	= 9	9	= 14.48412

Comparison of metric and customary units from 1 to 10—Continued.

AREAS.

Square inches.	Square millimeters.	Square inches.	Square centimeters.	Square feet.	Square meters.	Square yards.	Square meters.	Square miles.	Square kilometers.
0.00155 =	1	0.1550 =	1	1 =	0.09290	1 =	0.8361	0.3861 =	1
0.00310 =	2	0.3100 =	2	2 =	0.18581	1.1960 =	1	0.7722 =	2
0.00465 =	3	0.4650 =	3	3 =	0.27871	2 =	1.6723	1 =	2.5900
0.00620 =	4	0.6200 =	4	4 =	0.37161	2.3920 =	2	1.1583 =	3
0.00775 =	5	0.7750 =	5	5 =	0.46452	3 =	2.5064	1.5444 =	4
0.00930 =	6	0.9300 =	6	6 =	0.55742	3.5880 =	3	1.9306 =	5
0.01085 =	7	1 =	6.452	7 =	0.65032	4 =	3.3445	2 =	5.1800
0.01240 =	8	1.0850 =	7	8 =	0.74323	4.7839 =	4	2.3166 =	6
0.01895 =	9	1.2400 =	8	9 =	0.83613	5 =	4.1807	2.7027 =	7
1 =	645.16	1.8960 =	9	10.764 =	1	5.9799 =	5	3 =	7.7700
2 =	1,290.33	2 =	12.903	21.528 =	2	6 =	5.0163	3.0688 =	8
3 =	1,935.49	3 =	19.355	32.292 =	3	7 =	5.8529	3.4749 =	9
4 =	2,580.65	4 =	25.807	43.055 =	4	7.1759 =	6	4 =	10.3600
5 =	3,225.81	5 =	32.258	53.819 =	5	8 =	6.6890	5 =	12.9500
6 =	3,870.98	6 =	38.710	64.583 =	6	8.3719 =	7	6 =	15.5400
7 =	4,516.14	7 =	45.161	75.347 =	7	9 =	7.5252	7 =	18.1300
8 =	5,161.30	8 =	51.613	86.111 =	8	9.5679 =	8	8 =	20.7200
9 =	5,806.46	9 =	58.065	96.875 =	9	10.7639 =	9	9 =	23.3100

VOLUMES.

Cubic inches.	Cubic millimeters.	Cubic inches.	Cubic centimeters.	Cubic feet.	Cubic meters.	Cubic yards.	Cubic meters.	Acres.	Hectares.
0.000061 =	1	0.0610 =	1	1 =	0.02832	1 =	0.7645	1 =	0.4047
0.000122 =	2	0.1220 =	2	2 =	0.05663	1.8079 =	1	2 =	0.8094
0.000183 =	3	0.1831 =	3	3 =	0.08495	2 =	1.5291	2.471 =	1
0.000244 =	4	0.2441 =	4	4 =	0.11327	2.6159 =	2	3 =	1.2141
0.000305 =	5	0.3051 =	5	5 =	0.14159	3 =	2.2937	4 =	1.6187
0.000366 =	6	0.3661 =	6	6 =	0.16990	3.9238 =	3	4.942 =	2
0.000427 =	7	0.4272 =	7	7 =	0.19822	4 =	3.0582	5 =	2.0234
0.000488 =	8	0.4882 =	8	8 =	0.22654	5 =	3.8226	6 =	2.4281
0.000549 =	9	0.5492 =	9	9 =	0.25485	5.2318 =	4	7 =	2.8328
1 =	16,387.2	1 =	16.3872	85.314 =	1	6 =	4.5874	7.413 =	3
2 =	32,774.3	2 =	32.7743	70.629 =	2	6.5397 =	5	8 =	3.2375
3 =	49,161.5	3 =	49.1615	105.943 =	3	7 =	5.8519	9 =	3.6422
4 =	65,548.6	4 =	65.5486	141.258 =	4	7.8477 =	6	9.884 =	4
5 =	81,935.8	5 =	81.9358	176.572 =	5	8 =	6.1165	12.355 =	5
6 =	98,322.0	6 =	98.3220	211.887 =	6	9 =	6.8810	14.826 =	6
7 =	114,710.1	7 =	114.7101	247.201 =	7	9.1556 =	7	17.297 =	7
8 =	131,097.3	8 =	131.0973	282.516 =	8	10.4636 =	8	19.768 =	8
9 =	147,484.5	9 =	147.4845	317.830 =	9	11.7715 =	9	22.239 =	9

CAPACITIES.

Milli-liters (cc.).	U. S. liquid ounces.	Milli-liters (cc.).	U. S. apothecaries' drams.	U. S. apothecaries' scruples.	Milli-liters (cc.).	U. S. liquid quarts.	Liters.	U. S. liquid gallons.	Liters.
1 =	0.03381	1 =	0.2705	0.8115 =	1	1 =	0.94636	0.26417 =	1
2 =	0.06763	2 =	0.5410	1 =	1.2322	1.05668 =	1	0.52834 =	2
3 =	0.10144	3 =	0.8115	1.6231 =	2	2 =	1.89272	0.79261 =	3
4 =	0.13526	3.6967 =	1	2 =	2.4615	2.11336 =	2	1 =	3.78543
5 =	0.16907	4 =	1.0820	2 =	3.6967	3 =	2.83908	1.05668 =	4
6 =	0.20288	5 =	1.3525	3 =	5.4950	3.17005 =	3	1.32085 =	5
7 =	0.23670	6 =	1.6231	4 =	7.3264	4 =	3.78543	1.58502 =	6
8 =	0.27051	7 =	1.8936	4.0577 =	5	4.22673 =	4	1.84919 =	7
9 =	0.30432	7.9934 =	2	4.8092 =	6	5 =	4.73179	2 =	7.57087
29.574 =	1	8 =	2.1641	5 =	6.1612	5 =	4.73179	2 =	7.57087
59.147 =	2	9 =	2.4346	5.6807 =	7	5.28341 =	5	2.11336 =	8
88.721 =	3	11.0901 =	3	6 =	7.3934	6 =	5.67815	2.37753 =	9
118.296 =	4	14.7869 =	4	6.4923 =	8	6.94009 =	6	3 =	11.35630
147.869 =	5	18.4836 =	5	7 =	8.6257	7 =	6.62451	4 =	15.14174
177.442 =	6	22.1808 =	6	7.3038 =	9	8 =	7.57088	5 =	18.92717
207.016 =	7	25.8770 =	7	8 =	9.8579	8 =	7.57088	6 =	22.71261
236.590 =	8	29.5737 =	8	9 =	11.0901	8 =	8.45845	7 =	26.49804
266.163 =	9	33.2704 =	9			9 =	8.51723	8 =	30.23343
						9.51014 =	9	9 =	34.06891

Comparison of metric and customary units from 1 to 10—Continued.

CAPACITIES—Continued.

U. S. dry quarts.	Liters.	U. S. pecks.	Liters.	Deka- liters.	U. S. pecks.	U. S. bushels.	Hecto- liters.	U. S. bushels per acre.	Hecto- liters per hectare
0.9081 = 1		0.11851 = 1		0.8810 = 1		1 = 0.85239		1 = 0.87078	
1 = 1.1012		0.22702 = 2		1 = 1.1351		2 = 0.70479		1.14840 = 1	
1.8162 = 2		0.34053 = 3		1.7620 = 2		2.83774 = 1		2 = 1.74156	
2 = 2.2025		0.45404 = 4		2 = 2.2702		3 = 1.05718		2.29680 = 2	
2.7242 = 3				2.6429 = 3					
3 = 3.3037		0.56755 = 5		3 = 3.4053		4 = 1.40957		3 = 2.61238	
3.6323 = 4		0.68106 = 6		3.5239 = 4		5 = 1.76196		3.44519 = 3	
4 = 4.4049		0.79457 = 7		4 = 4.5404		5.67548 = 5		4 = 3.48811	
4.5404 = 5		0.90808 = 8		4.4049 = 5		6 = 2.11436		4.59359 = 4	
5 = 5.5061		1 = 8.80982		5 = 5.6755		7 = 2.46675		5 = 4.35889	
5.4485 = 6				5.2859 = 6					
6 = 6.6074		1.02157 = 9		6 = 6.8106		8 = 2.81914		5.74199 = 5	
6.3565 = 7		2 = 17.61964		6.1669 = 7		8.51323 = 8		6 = 5.22467	
7 = 7.7086		3 = 26.42946		7 = 7.9457		9 = 3.17154		6.89039 = 6	
7.2646 = 8		4 = 35.23928		7.0479 = 8		11.35097 = 4		7 = 6.09545	
8 = 8.8098				7.9288 = 9					
8.1727 = 9		5 = 44.04910		8 = 9.0808		14.18871 = 5		8 = 6.96622	
9 = 9.9110		6 = 52.85892		9 = 10.2159		17.02645 = 6		8.03879 = 7	
		7 = 61.66874				19.86420 = 7		9 = 7.88700	
		8 = 70.47856				22.70194 = 8		9.18719 = 8	
		9 = 79.28838				25.58968 = 9		10.33658 = 9	

MASSES.

Grains.	Grams.	Avoirdupois ounces.	Grams.	Troy ounces.	Grams.	Avoirdupois pounds.	Kilo- grams.	Troy pounds.	Kilo- grams.
1 = 0.06480		0.03527 = 1		0.08215 = 1		1 = 0.45359		1 = 0.87324	
2 = 0.12960		0.07055 = 2		0.06480 = 2		2 = 0.90718		2 = 0.74648	
3 = 0.19440		0.10582 = 3		0.09645 = 3		2.20462 = 1		2.67923 = 1	
4 = 0.25920		0.14110 = 4		0.12860 = 4		3 = 1.36078		3 = 1.11973	
5 = 0.32399		0.17637 = 5		0.16075 = 5		4 = 1.81437		4 = 1.49297	
6 = 0.38879		0.21164 = 6		0.19290 = 6		4.40924 = 2		5 = 1.80621	
7 = 0.45359		0.24692 = 7		0.22506 = 7		5 = 2.26796		5.35846 = 2	
8 = 0.51839		0.28219 = 8		0.25721 = 8		6 = 2.72156		6 = 2.28645	
9 = 0.58319		0.31747 = 9		0.28986 = 9		6.61887 = 3		7 = 2.61269	
15.4324 = 1		1 = 28.3495		1 = 31.10348		7 = 3.17515		8 = 2.98598	
30.8647 = 2		2 = 56.6991		2 = 62.20696		8 = 3.62874		8.08769 = 3	
46.2971 = 3		3 = 85.0486		3 = 93.31044		8.81849 = 4		9 = 3.85918	
61.7294 = 4		4 = 113.3981		4 = 124.41392		9 = 4.08233		10.71691 = 4	
77.1618 = 5		5 = 141.7476		5 = 155.51740		11.02311 = 5		13.39614 = 5	
92.5941 = 6		6 = 170.0972		6 = 186.62088		12.22773 = 6		16.07537 = 6	
108.0265 = 7		7 = 198.4467		7 = 217.72437		15.43236 = 7		18.75460 = 7	
123.4589 = 8		8 = 226.7962		8 = 248.82785		17.63698 = 8		21.43383 = 8	
138.8912 = 9		9 = 255.1457		9 = 279.98133		19.84160 = 9		24.11306 = 9	

COMPARISON OF PRICES.

French and German prices for metric units, British prices for imperial units, and United States prices for United States standard weights and measures.

[Based upon the circular of the Secretary of the Treasury dated October 1, 1902, fixing the legal equivalent of the (German) mark at 23.8 cents, of the (French) franc at 19.8 cents, and the British pound sterling at \$4.8665.]

Francs per kilo- gram.	Dollars per avoird. pound.	Francs per meter.	Dollars per yard.	Francs per liter.	Dollars per U. S. liquid gal.	Francs per hec- toliter.	Dollars per bushel.	Shillings per British imp. gal.	Dollars per U. S. liquid gal.
1	= .088	1	= .176	1	= .781	1	= .068	1	= .238
2	= .176	2	= .352	2	= 1.461	2	= .136	2	= .405
3	= .263	3	= .529	3	= 2.192	3	= .204	3	= .606
4	= .350	4	= .705	4	= 2.922	4	= .272	4	= .810
5	= .438	5	= .882	5	= 3.658	5	= .340	5	= 1.012
6	= .525	6	= 1.068	6	= 4.384	6	= .408	6	= 1.216
7	= .612	7	= 1.234	7	= 5.114	7	= .476	7	= 1.418
8	= .700	8	= 1.411	8	= 5.844	8	= .544	8	= 1.621
9	= .788	9	= 1.587	9	= 6.575	9	= .612	9	= 1.824
11.428	= 1	5.667	= 1	1.369	= 1	14.708	= 1	4.935	= 1
22.846	= 2	11.834	= 2	2.738	= 2	29.407	= 2	9.871	= 2
34.269	= 3	17.000	= 3	4.106	= 3	44.110	= 3	14.806	= 3
45.691	= 4	22.667	= 4	5.475	= 4	58.813	= 4	19.742	= 4
57.115	= 5	28.834	= 5	6.844	= 5	73.517	= 5	24.677	= 5
68.537	= 6	34.001	= 6	8.213	= 6	88.220	= 6	29.612	= 6
79.960	= 7	39.668	= 7	9.581	= 7	102.923	= 7	34.548	= 7
91.383	= 8	45.334	= 8	10.950	= 8	117.627	= 8	39.483	= 8
102.806	= 9	51.001	= 9	12.319	= 9	132.330	= 9	44.419	= 9
Marks per kilo- gram.	Dollars per avoird. pound.	Marks per meter.	Dollars per yard.	Marks per liter.	Dollars per U. S. liquid gal.	Marks per hec- toliter.	Dollars per bushel.	Shillings per British bus.	Dollars per U. S. bus.
1	= .106	1	= .218	1	= .901	1	= .064	1	= .236
2	= .216	2	= .435	2	= 1.802	2	= .168	2	= .472
3	= .324	3	= .653	3	= 2.708	3	= .252	3	= .707
4	= .432	4	= .871	4	= 3.604	4	= .335	4	= .943
5	= .540	5	= 1.088	5	= 4.505	5	= .419	5	= 1.179
6	= .648	6	= 1.306	6	= 5.406	6	= .508	6	= 1.415
7	= .756	7	= 1.523	7	= 6.307	7	= .587	7	= 1.650
8	= .864	8	= 1.741	8	= 7.207	8	= .671	8	= 1.886
9	= .972	9	= 1.959	9	= 8.108	9	= .755	9	= 2.122
9.268	= 1	4.595	= 1	1.110	= 1	11.923	= 1	4.241	= 1
18.526	= 2	9.190	= 2	2.220	= 2	23.847	= 2	8.483	= 2
27.789	= 3	13.785	= 3	3.330	= 3	35.770	= 3	12.724	= 3
37.052	= 4	18.380	= 4	4.440	= 4	47.693	= 4	16.965	= 4
46.316	= 5	22.975	= 5	5.550	= 5	59.616	= 5	21.207	= 5
55.579	= 6	27.570	= 6	6.660	= 6	71.540	= 6	25.448	= 6
64.842	= 7	32.165	= 7	7.770	= 7	83.463	= 7	29.689	= 7
74.105	= 8	36.760	= 8	8.880	= 8	95.386	= 8	33.931	= 8
83.368	= 9	41.355	= 9	9.990	= 9	107.310	= 9	38.172	= 9

Comparison of meters to feet and feet to meters.

FROM 1 TO 100 UNITS.

Feet.	Meters.	Feet.	Meters.	Meters.	Feet.	Meters.	Feet.
0		50	15.24003	0		50	15.24003
1	.30480	1	15.54483	1	3.28083	1	167.32250
2	.60960	2	15.84963	2	6.56167	2	170.60833
3	.91440	3	16.15443	3	9.84250	3	173.89417
4	1.21920	4	16.45923	4	13.12333	4	177.18000
5	1.52400	5	16.76403	5	16.40417	5	180.46583
6	1.82880	6	17.06883	6	19.68500	6	183.75167
7	2.13360	7	17.37363	7	22.96583	7	187.03750
8	2.43840	8	17.67843	8	26.24667	8	190.32333
9	2.74321	9	17.98324	9	29.52750	9	193.60917
10	3.04801	60	18.28804	10	32.80833	60	196.85000
1	3.35281	1	18.59284	1	36.08917	1	200.13083
2	3.65761	2	18.89764	2	39.37000	2	203.41167
3	3.96241	3	19.20244	3	42.65083	3	206.69250
4	4.26721	4	19.50724	4	45.93167	4	209.97333
5	4.57201	5	19.81204	5	49.21250	5	213.25417
6	4.87681	6	20.11684	6	52.49333	6	216.53500
7	5.18161	7	20.42164	7	55.77417	7	219.81583
8	5.48641	8	20.72644	8	59.05500	8	223.09667
9	5.79121	9	21.03124	9	62.33583	9	226.37750
20	6.09601	70	21.33604	20	65.61667	70	229.65833
1	6.40081	1	21.64084	1	68.89750	1	232.93917
2	6.70561	2	21.94564	2	72.17833	2	236.22000
3	7.01041	3	22.25044	3	75.45917	3	239.50083
4	7.31521	4	22.55524	4	78.74000	4	242.78167
5	7.62002	5	22.86005	5	82.02083	5	246.06250
6	7.92482	6	23.16485	6	85.30167	6	249.34333
7	8.22962	7	23.46965	7	88.58250	7	252.62417
8	8.53442	8	23.77445	8	91.86333	8	255.90500
9	8.83922	9	24.07925	9	95.14417	9	259.18583
30	9.14402	80	24.38405	30	98.42500	80	262.46667
1	9.44882	1	24.68885	1	101.70583	1	265.74750
2	9.75362	2	24.99365	2	104.98667	2	269.02833
3	10.05842	3	25.29845	3	108.26750	3	272.30917
4	10.36322	4	25.60325	4	111.54833	4	275.59000
5	10.66802	5	25.90805	5	114.82917	5	278.87083
6	10.97282	6	26.21285	6	118.11000	6	282.15167
7	11.27762	7	26.51765	7	121.39083	7	285.43250
8	11.58242	8	26.82245	8	124.67167	8	288.71333
9	11.88722	9	27.12725	9	127.95250	9	291.99417
40	12.19202	90	27.43205	40	131.23333	90	295.27500
1	12.49682	1	27.73685	1	134.51417	1	298.55583
2	12.80163	2	28.04166	2	137.79500	2	301.83667
3	13.10643	3	28.34646	3	141.07583	3	305.11750
4	13.41123	4	28.65126	4	144.35667	4	308.39833
5	13.71603	5	28.95606	5	147.63750	5	311.67917
6	14.02083	6	29.26086	6	150.91833	6	314.96000
7	14.32563	7	29.56566	7	154.19917	7	318.24083
8	14.63043	8	29.87046	8	157.48000	8	321.52167
9	14.93523	9	30.17526	9	160.76083	9	324.80250
		100	30.48006			100	328.08333

Miles to kilometers and kilometers to miles.

FROM 1 TO 100 UNITS.

Miles.	Kilo- meters.	Kilo- meters.	Miles.	Kilo- meters.	Miles.	Miles.	Kilo- meters.
0.		50	31.06850	0		50	80.4674
1	1.6093	1	31.68967	1	.62137	1	82.0767
2	3.2187	2	32.31124	2	1.24274	2	83.6861
3	4.8280	3	32.93261	3	1.86411	3	85.2954
4	6.4374	4	33.55398	4	2.48548	4	86.9047
5	8.0467	5	34.17585	5	3.10685	5	88.5141
6	9.6561	6	34.79672	6	3.72822	6	90.1234
7	11.2654	7	35.41809	7	4.34959	7	91.7328
8	12.8748	8	36.03946	8	4.97096	8	93.3421
9	14.4841	9	36.66083	9	5.59233	9	94.9515
10	16.0935	60	37.28220	10	6.21370	60	96.5608
1	17.7028	1	37.90357	1	6.83507	1	98.1702
2	19.3122	2	38.52494	2	7.45644	2	99.7795
3	20.9215	3	39.14631	3	8.07781	3	101.3889
4	22.5309	4	39.76768	4	8.69918	4	102.9982
5	24.1402	5	40.38905	5	9.32055	5	104.6076
6	25.7496	6	41.01042	6	9.94192	6	106.2169
7	27.3589	7	41.63179	7	10.56329	7	107.8263
8	28.9682	8	42.25316	8	11.18466	8	109.4356
9	30.5776	9	42.87453	9	11.80603	9	111.0450
20	32.1869	70	43.49590	20	12.42740	70	112.6543
1	33.7963	1	44.11727	1	13.04877	1	114.2637
2	35.4056	2	44.73864	2	13.67014	2	115.8730
3	37.0150	3	45.36001	3	14.29151	3	117.4823
4	38.6243	4	45.98138	4	14.91288	4	119.0917
5	40.2337	5	46.60275	5	15.53425	5	120.7010
6	41.8430	6	47.22412	6	16.15562	6	122.3104
7	43.4524	7	47.84549	7	16.77699	7	123.9197
8	45.0617	8	48.46686	8	17.39836	8	125.5291
9	46.6711	9	49.08823	9	18.01973	9	127.1384
30	48.2804	80	49.70960	30	18.64110	80	128.7478
1	49.8898	1	50.33097	1	19.26247	1	130.3571
2	51.4991	2	50.95234	2	19.88384	2	131.9665
3	53.1085	3	51.57371	3	20.50521	3	133.5758
4	54.7178	4	52.19508	4	21.12658	4	135.1852
5	56.3272	5	52.81645	5	21.74795	5	136.7945
6	57.9365	6	53.43782	6	22.36932	6	138.4039
7	59.5458	7	54.05919	7	22.99069	7	140.0132
8	61.1552	8	54.68056	8	23.61206	8	141.6226
9	62.7645	9	55.30193	9	24.23343	9	143.2319
40	64.3739	90	55.92330	40	24.85480	90	144.8412
1	65.9832	1	56.54467	1	25.47617	1	146.4506
2	67.5926	2	57.16604	2	26.09754	2	148.0599
3	69.2019	3	57.78741	3	26.71891	3	149.6693
4	70.8113	4	58.40878	4	27.34028	4	151.2786
5	72.4206	5	59.03015	5	27.96165	5	152.8880
6	74.0300	6	59.65152	6	28.58302	6	154.4973
7	75.6393	7	60.27289	7	29.20439	7	156.1067
8	77.2487	8	60.89426	8	29.82576	8	157.7160
9	78.8580	9	61.51563	9	30.44713	9	159.3254
		100	62.13699			100	160.9347



YELLOW HOUSE (NORTHEAST CORNER), CARACAS.
(Courtesy of the Venezuelan Government.)



Acres to hectares and hectares to acres.

FROM 1 TO 100 UNITS.

Acres.	Hectares.	Acres.	Hectares.	Hectares.	Acres.	Hectares.	Acres.
0		50	20.23436	0		50	123.55220
1	0.40469	1	20.63806	1	2.47104	1	126.02324
2	0.80937	2	21.04374	2	4.94209	2	128.49428
3	1.21406	3	21.44842	3	7.41313	3	130.96533
4	1.61875	4	21.85311	4	9.88418	4	133.43637
5	2.02344	5	22.25780	5	12.35522	5	135.90742
6	2.42812	6	22.66249	6	14.82626	6	138.37846
7	2.83281	7	23.06717	7	17.29731	7	140.84950
8	3.23750	8	23.47186	8	19.76835	8	143.32055
9	3.64219	9	23.87655	9	22.23940	9	145.79159
10	4.04687	60	24.28124	10	24.71044	60	148.26264
1	4.45156	1	24.68592	1	27.18148	1	150.73368
2	4.85625	2	25.09061	2	29.65253	2	153.20472
3	5.26093	3	25.49530	3	32.12357	3	155.67577
4	5.66562	4	25.89998	4	34.59462	4	158.14681
5	6.07031	5	26.30467	5	37.06566	5	160.61786
6	6.47500	6	26.70936	6	39.53670	6	163.08890
7	6.87968	7	27.11405	7	42.00775	7	165.55994
8	7.28437	8	27.51873	8	44.47879	8	168.03099
9	7.68906	9	27.92342	9	46.94983	9	170.50203
20	8.09875	70	28.32811	20	49.42088	70	172.97308
1	8.49843	1	28.73280	1	51.89192	1	175.44412
2	8.90312	2	29.13748	2	54.36297	2	177.91516
3	9.30781	3	29.54217	3	56.83401	3	180.38621
4	9.71249	4	29.94686	4	59.30506	4	182.85725
5	10.11718	5	30.35154	5	61.77610	5	185.32829
6	10.52187	6	30.75623	6	64.24714	6	187.79934
7	10.92656	7	31.16092	7	66.71819	7	190.27038
8	11.33124	8	31.56561	8	69.18923	8	192.74143
9	11.73593	9	31.97029	9	71.66027	9	195.21247
30	12.14062	80	32.37498	30	74.13132	80	197.68351
1	12.54531	1	32.77967	1	76.60236	1	200.15456
2	12.94999	2	33.18436	2	79.07341	2	202.62560
3	13.35468	3	33.58904	3	81.54445	3	205.09665
4	13.75937	4	33.99373	4	84.01549	4	207.56769
5	14.16405	5	34.39842	5	86.48654	5	210.03873
6	14.56874	6	34.80310	6	88.95758	6	212.50978
7	14.97343	7	35.20779	7	91.42863	7	214.98082
8	15.37812	8	35.61248	8	93.89967	8	217.45187
9	15.78280	9	36.01717	9	96.37071	9	219.92291
40	16.18749	90	36.42185	40	98.84176	90	222.39395
1	16.59218	1	36.82654	1	101.31280	1	224.86500
2	16.99686	2	37.23123	2	103.78385	2	227.33604
3	17.40155	3	37.63592	3	106.25489	3	229.80709
4	17.80624	4	38.04060	4	108.72593	4	232.27813
5	18.21093	5	38.44529	5	111.19698	5	234.74917
6	18.61561	6	38.84998	6	113.66802	6	237.22022
7	19.02030	7	39.25466	7	116.13906	7	239.69126
8	19.42499	8	39.65935	8	118.61011	8	242.16231
9	19.82968	9	40.06404	9	121.08115	9	244.63335
		100	40.46873			100	247.10439

Liters to liquid quarts and liquid quarts to liters.

FROM 1 TO 100 UNITS.

Liters.	Quarts.	Liters.	Quarts.	Quarts.	Liters.	Quarts.	Liters.
0		50	52.83409	0		50	47.31793
1	1.05668	1	58.89077	1	.94636	1	43.26429
2	2.11336	2	54.94746	2	1.89272	2	49.21065
3	3.17005	3	56.00414	3	2.83908	3	50.15701
4	4.22673	4	57.06082	4	3.78543	4	51.10337
5	5.28341	5	58.11750	5	4.73179	5	52.04972
6	6.34009	6	59.17418	6	5.67815	6	52.99608
7	7.39677	7	60.23086	7	6.62451	7	53.94244
8	8.45345	8	61.28755	8	7.57087	8	54.88880
9	9.51014	9	62.34423	9	8.51723	9	55.83516
10	10.56682	60	63.40091	10	9.46350	60	56.78152
1	11.62350	1	64.45759	1	10.40984	1	57.72788
2	12.68018	2	65.51428	2	11.35620	2	58.67423
3	13.73686	3	66.57096	3	12.30256	3	59.62059
4	14.79355	4	67.62764	4	13.24902	4	60.56695
5	15.85023	5	68.68432	5	14.19538	5	61.51331
6	16.90691	6	69.74100	6	15.14174	6	62.45967
7	17.96359	7	70.79768	7	16.08810	7	63.40603
8	19.02027	8	71.85437	8	17.03446	8	64.35239
9	20.07696	9	72.91105	9	17.98082	9	65.29875
20	21.13364	70	73.96773	20	18.92717	70	66.24510
1	22.19032	1	75.02441	1	19.87353	1	67.19146
2	23.24700	2	76.08109	2	20.81989	2	68.13782
3	24.30368	3	77.13778	3	21.76625	3	69.08418
4	25.36036	4	78.19446	4	22.71261	4	70.03054
5	26.41705	5	79.25114	5	23.65897	5	70.97690
6	27.47373	6	80.30782	6	24.60532	6	71.92326
7	28.53041	7	81.36450	7	25.55168	7	72.86962
8	29.58709	8	82.42119	8	26.49804	8	73.81597
9	30.64377	9	83.47787	9	27.44440	9	74.76233
30	31.70046	80	84.53455	30	28.39076	80	75.70869
1	32.75714	1	85.59123	1	29.33712	1	76.65505
2	33.81382	2	86.64791	2	30.28348	2	77.60141
3	34.87050	3	87.70459	3	31.22983	3	78.54777
4	35.92718	4	88.76128	4	32.17619	4	79.49412
5	36.98387	5	89.81796	5	33.12255	5	80.44048
6	38.04055	6	90.87464	6	34.06891	6	81.38684
7	39.09723	7	91.93132	7	35.01527	7	82.33320
8	40.15391	8	92.98800	8	35.96163	8	83.27956
9	41.21059	9	94.04469	9	36.90799	9	84.22592
40	42.26727	90	95.10137	40	37.85436	90	85.17228
1	43.32396	1	96.15805	1	38.80070	1	86.11863
2	44.38064	2	97.21473	2	39.74706	2	87.06499
3	45.43732	3	98.27141	3	40.69342	3	88.01135
4	46.49400	4	99.32809	4	41.63978	4	88.95771
5	47.55068	5	100.38478	5	42.58614	5	89.90407
6	48.60737	6	101.44146	6	43.53250	6	90.85043
7	49.66405	7	102.49814	7	44.47886	7	91.79679
8	50.72073	8	103.55482	8	45.42522	8	92.74315
9	51.77741	9	104.61150	9	46.37157	9	93.68950
		100	105.66819			100	94.63586

Liters to gallons and gallons to liters.

FROM 1 TO 100 UNITS.

Liters.	Gallons.	Liters.	Gallons.	Gallons.	Liters.	Gallons.	Liters.
0		50	13.20852	0		50	189.2717
1	.26417	1	13.47269	1	3.7854	1	193.0572
2	.52834	2	13.73686	2	7.5709	2	196.8426
3	.79251	3	14.00103	3	11.3563	3	200.6280
4	1.05668	4	14.26521	4	15.1417	4	204.4135
5	1.32085	5	14.52938	5	18.9272	5	208.1989
6	1.58502	6	14.79355	6	22.7126	6	211.9843
7	1.84919	7	15.05772	7	26.4980	7	215.7698
8	2.11336	8	15.32189	8	30.2835	8	219.5552
9	2.37753	9	15.58606	9	34.0689	9	223.3406
10	2.64170	60	15.85023	10	37.8543	60	227.1261
1	2.90588	1	16.11440	1	41.6398	1	230.9115
2	3.17005	2	16.37857	2	45.4252	2	234.6969
3	3.43422	3	16.64274	3	49.2106	3	238.4824
4	3.69839	4	16.90691	4	52.9961	4	242.2678
5	3.96256	5	17.17108	5	56.7815	5	246.0532
6	4.22673	6	17.43525	6	60.5670	6	249.8387
7	4.49090	7	17.69942	7	64.3524	7	253.6241
8	4.75507	8	17.96359	8	68.1378	8	257.4095
9	5.01924	9	18.22776	9	71.9233	9	261.1950
20	5.28341	70	18.49193	20	75.7087	70	264.9804
1	5.54758	1	18.75610	1	79.4941	1	268.7658
2	5.81175	2	19.02027	2	83.2796	2	272.5513
3	6.07592	3	19.28444	3	87.0650	3	276.3367
4	6.34009	4	19.54861	4	90.8504	4	280.1222
5	6.60426	5	19.81279	5	94.6359	5	283.9076
6	6.86843	6	20.07696	6	98.4213	6	287.6930
7	7.13260	7	20.34113	7	102.2067	7	291.4785
8	7.39677	8	20.60530	8	105.9922	8	295.2639
9	7.66094	9	20.86947	9	109.7776	9	299.0493
30	7.92511	90	21.13364	30	113.5630	90	302.8348
1	8.18928	1	21.39781	1	117.3485	1	306.6202
2	8.45345	2	21.66198	2	121.1339	2	310.4056
3	8.71763	3	21.92615	3	124.9193	3	314.1911
4	8.98180	4	22.19032	4	128.7048	4	317.9765
5	9.24597	5	22.45449	5	132.4902	5	321.7619
6	9.51014	6	22.71866	6	136.2756	6	325.5474
7	9.77431	7	22.98283	7	140.0611	7	329.3328
8	10.03848	8	23.24700	8	143.8465	8	333.1182
9	10.30265	9	23.51117	9	147.6319	9	336.9037
40	10.56682	90	23.77534	40	151.4174	90	340.6891
1	10.83099	1	24.03951	1	155.2028	1	344.4745
2	11.09516	2	24.30368	2	158.9882	2	348.2600
3	11.35933	3	24.56785	3	162.7737	3	352.0454
4	11.62350	4	24.83202	4	166.5591	4	355.8308
5	11.88767	5	25.09619	5	170.3446	5	359.6163
6	12.15184	6	25.36036	6	174.1300	6	363.4017
7	12.41601	7	25.62454	7	177.9154	7	367.1871
8	12.68018	8	25.88871	8	181.7009	8	370.9726
9	12.94435	9	26.15288	9	185.4863	9	374.7580
		100	26.41706			100	378.5434

Kilograms to avoirdupois pounds and avoirdupois pounds to kilograms.

FROM 1 TO 100 UNITS.

Kilos.	Pounds.	Kilos.	Pounds.	Pounds.	Kilos.	Pounds.	Kilos.
0		50	110.2311	0		50	22.67962
1	2.2046	1	112.4367	1	.45359	1	23.15321
2	4.4092	2	114.6404	2	.90718	2	23.56681
3	6.6139	3	116.8450	3	1.36078	3	24.04040
4	8.8186	4	119.0496	4	1.81437	4	24.49399
5	11.0231	5	121.2542	5	2.26796	5	24.94758
6	13.2277	6	123.4589	6	2.72155	6	25.40118
7	15.4324	7	125.6635	7	3.17515	7	25.85477
8	17.6370	8	127.8681	8	3.62874	8	26.30836
9	19.8416	9	130.0727	9	4.08233	9	26.76195
10	22.0462	60	132.2773	10	4.53592	60	27.21555
1	24.2508	1	134.4820	1	4.98952	1	27.66914
2	26.4555	2	136.6866	2	5.44311	2	28.12273
3	28.6601	3	138.8912	3	5.89670	3	28.57632
4	30.8647	4	141.0958	4	6.35029	4	29.02992
5	33.0693	5	143.3005	5	6.80389	5	29.48351
6	35.2740	6	145.5051	6	7.25748	6	29.93710
7	37.4786	7	147.7097	7	7.71107	7	30.39069
8	39.6832	8	149.9143	8	8.16466	8	30.84429
9	41.8878	9	152.1189	9	8.61826	9	31.29788
20	44.0924	70	154.3236	20	9.07185	70	31.75147
1	46.2971	1	156.5282	1	9.52544	1	32.20506
2	48.5017	2	158.7328	2	9.97903	2	32.65865
3	50.7063	3	160.9374	3	10.43263	3	33.11225
4	52.9109	4	163.1421	4	10.88622	4	33.56584
5	55.1156	5	165.3467	5	11.33981	5	34.01943
6	57.3202	6	167.5513	6	11.79340	6	34.47302
7	59.5248	7	169.7559	7	12.24700	7	34.92662
8	61.7294	8	171.9605	8	12.70059	8	35.38021
9	63.9340	9	174.1652	9	13.15418	9	35.83380
30	66.1387	80	176.3698	30	13.60777	80	36.28739
1	68.3433	1	178.5744	1	14.06137	1	36.74099
2	70.5479	2	180.7790	2	14.51496	2	37.19458
3	72.7525	3	182.9837	3	14.96855	3	37.64817
4	74.9572	4	185.1883	4	15.42214	4	38.10176
5	77.1618	5	187.3929	5	15.87573	5	38.55536
6	79.3664	6	189.5975	6	16.32933	6	39.00895
7	81.5710	7	191.8021	7	16.78292	7	39.46254
8	83.7756	8	194.0068	8	17.23651	8	39.91613
9	85.9803	9	196.2111	9	17.69010	9	40.36973
40	88.1849	90	198.4160	40	18.14370	90	40.82332
1	90.3895	1	200.6206	1	18.59729	1	41.27691
2	92.5941	2	202.8253	2	19.05088	2	41.73050
3	94.7988	3	205.0299	3	19.50447	3	42.18410
4	97.0034	4	207.2345	4	19.95807	4	42.63769
5	99.2080	5	209.4391	5	20.41166	5	43.09128
6	101.4126	6	211.6437	6	20.86525	6	43.54487
7	103.6172	7	213.8484	7	21.31884	7	43.99847
8	105.8219	8	216.0530	8	21.77244	8	44.45206
9	108.0265	9	218.2576	9	22.22603	9	44.90565
		100	220.4622			100	45.35924

WEIGHTS COMPARED.

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Comparison of the various tons and pounds in use in the United States

FROM 1 TO 10 UNITS.

Long tons.	Short tons.	Metric tons.	Kilograms.	Avoirdupois pounds.	Troy pounds.
.00086785	.00041143	.00087824	.87324	.822857	1
.00044648	.00050000	.00045859	.45359	1	1.21528
.00073469	.00082286	.00074648	.74648	1.64571	2
.00089286	.00100000	.00090718	.90718	2	2.43056
.00094421	.00110231	.00100000	1	2.20462	2.67923
.00110204	.00123429	.00111973	1.11978	2.46857	3
.00133929	.00150000	.00136078	1.36078	3	3.64583
.00146939	.00164571	.00149297	1.49297	3.29143	4
.00178571	.00200000	.00181437	1.81437	4	4.86111
.00183678	.00205714	.00186621	1.86621	4.11429	5
.00196841	.00220462	.00200000	2	4.40924	5.35846
.00220408	.00246857	.00223945	2.23945	4.93714	6
.00223214	.00250000	.00226796	2.26796	5	6.07639
.00257143	.00288000	.00251269	2.51269	5.76000	7
.00267457	.00300000	.00272155	2.72155	6	7.29167
.00293878	.00329143	.00298593	2.98593	6.58286	8
.00295262	.00330693	.00300000	3	6.61387	8.03769
.00312500	.00350000	.00317515	3.17515	7	8.50694
.00330612	.00370286	.00335918	3.35918	7.40571	9
.00357143	.00400000	.00362874	3.62874	8	9.72222
.00393683	.00440924	.00400000	4	8.81849	10.71691
.00401786	.00450000	.00408233	1.08233	9	10.93750
.00492103	.00551156	.00500000	5	11.0231	13.89614
.00590524	.00661387	.00600000	6	13.2277	16.07537
.00689944	.00771618	.00780000	7	15.4324	18.75460
.00787365	.00881849	.00800000	8	17.6370	21.43383
.00885786	.00992090	.00900000	9	19.8416	24.11306
.89287	1	.90718	907.18	2,000.00	2,430.56
.98421	1.10231	1	1,000.00	2,204.62	2,679.23
1	1.12000	1.01605	1,016.05	2,240.00	2,722.22
1.78571	2	1.81437	1,814.37	4,000.00	4,861.11
1.96841	2.20462	2	2,000.00	4,409.24	5,358.46
2	2.24000	2.03209	2,032.09	4,480.00	5,444.44
2.67857	3	2.72155	2,721.55	6,000.00	7,291.67
2.95262	3.30693	3	3,000.00	6,613.87	8,037.69
3	3.36000	3.04814	3,048.14	6,720.00	8,166.67
3.57143	4	3.62874	3,628.74	8,000.00	9,722.22
3.93683	4.40924	4	4,000.00	8,818.49	10,716.91
4	4.48000	4.06419	4,064.19	8,960.00	10,888.89
4.46429	5	4.53592	4,535.92	10,000.00	12,152.78
4.92103	5.51156	5	5,000.00	11,023.11	13,896.14
5	5.60000	5.08024	5,080.24	11,200.00	13,611.11
5.35714	6	5.44311	5,443.11	12,000.00	14,588.83
5.90524	6.61387	6	6,000.00	13,227.73	16,075.37
6	6.72000	6.09628	6,096.28	13,440.00	16,333.33
6.25000	7	6.35029	6,350.29	14,000.00	17,013.89
6.88944	7.71618	7	7,000.00	15,432.36	18,754.60
7	7.84000	7.11282	7,112.32	15,680.00	19,055.56
7.14246	8	7.25748	7,257.48	16,000.00	19,444.44
7.87365	8.81849	8	8,000.00	17,636.98	21,433.83
8	8.96000	8.12838	8,128.38	17,920.00	21,777.78
8.08571	9	8.16466	8,164.66	18,000.00	21,875.00
8.85786	9.92080	9	9,000.00	19,841.60	24,113.06
9	10.08000	9.14442	9,144.42	20,180.00	24,500.00

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CHAPTER XV.

BIBLIOGRAPHY, CARTOGRAPHY—THE PRESS.

REFERENCE LIST OF BOOKS AND PAMPHLETS ON VENEZUELA.

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3. Mapa de las costas de Tierra-Firme, desde el Orinoco hasta Yucatán, de las islas Antillas y la mayor parte de las Lucayas con las derrotas que siguió dn. Cristóbal Colón.
4. Mapa político de Venezuela antes de la revolución de 1810. Mapa político de la república de Venezuela en 1840.
5. Mapa físico de Venezuela dividida en hoyas hidrográficas. Mapa físico de Venezuela dividido en tres zonas.

^a Am. Hist. Asso.—Guiana and Venezuela Cartography, by P. Lee Phillips, 1895.

6. Mapa de Venezuela para servir á la historia de las campañas de la guerra de independencia en los años de 1812, 1813, y 1814. Mapa de Venezuela para servir á la historia de las campañas de la guerra de independencia en los años 1816, 1817, y 1818. Mapa de Venezuela y parte de la Nueva-Granada para servir á la historia de las campañas de la guerra de independencia en los años 1818 y parte de 1819.
 7. Mapa de Venezuela, Nueva-Granada y Quito, para servir á la historia de las campañas de la guerra de independencia en los años 1819 y 1820.
 8. Mapa de los tres departamentos Venezuela, Cundinamarca y Ecuador que formaron la república de Colombia, para servir á la historia de las campañas de la guerra de independencia en los años de 1821, 1822, y 1823.
 9. Mapa que contiene una parte de las repúblicas del Ecuador, Perú, y Bolivia para servir á la historia de las campañas del ejército colombiano en el alto y bajo Perú sacado de otro publicado en 1826 y corregido según las observaciones é itinerarios de los oficiales facultativos que acompañaron los ejércitos en sus diferentes operaciones.
 10. Carta de la república de Colombia dividida por departamentos.
 11. Provincia de Caracas.
 12. Islas y provincia de Margarita; provincia de Barcelona; provincia de Cumaná; cantón de Piacoa de la provincia de Guayana.
 13. Provincia de Maracaibo; provincia de Coro; provincia de Mérida.
 14. Provincia de Carabobo; provincia de Barquisimeto; provincia de Trujillo; provincia de Barinas.
 15. Provincia de Apure; carta del cantón de Cayara de la provincia de Guyana.
 16. Carta del cantón de Upata de la provincia de Guayana.
 17. Carta del cantón de Angostura de la provincia de Guayana.
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NOTE.—Volume four of the Report.

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(Courtesy of the Venezuelan Government.)

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APPENDIX.

DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE—NATIONAL CONSTITUTION— BRITISH, GERMAN, AND ITALIAN PROTOCOLS—VENEZUELAN CONGRESS'S ACTION ON THEM—HAGUE PROTOCOLS—HAGUE ARBITRATION TRIBUNAL'S AWARD—PUBLIC TREATIES AND CONVENTIONS IN FORCE.

DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE.

ACT OF INDEPENDENCE.

In the name of All-powerful God:

We, the representatives of the United Provinces of Caracas, Cumaná, Barinas, Margarita, Barcelona, Mérida, and Trujillo, forming the American Confederation of Venezuela, in the Southern Continent, in Congress assembled, considering the full and absolute possession of our rights which we recovered justly and legally since the 19th of April, 1810, in consequence of the occurrences in Bayonne, and the occupation of the Spanish throne by conquest, and the succession of a new dynasty, constituted without our consent, are desirous, before we make use of the rights, of which we have been deprived by force for more than three centuries, but are now restored to us by the political order of human events, to make known to the world the reasons which are the outcome of said occurrences, and authorize us in the free use we are about to make of our sovereignty:

We do not wish, however, to begin by alleging the rights inherent in every conquered country to recover its state of property and independence; we generously forget the long series of ills, injuries, and privations which the sad right of conquest has indistinctly caused to all the descendants of the discoverers, conquerors, and settlers of these countries, plunged into a worse state by the very same cause that ought to have favored them; and drawing a veil over the three hundred years of Spanish domination in America, we will now only present to view the authentic and well-known facts which ought to and have wrested from one world the right over the other, by the inversion, disorder, and conquest that have already dissolved the Spanish nation.

This disorder has increased the ills of America by rendering void its claims and remonstrances, enabling the governors of Spain to insult

and oppress this part of the nation, thus leaving it without the succor and guaranty of the laws.

It is contrary to order, impossible to the Government of Spain, and fatal to the welfare of America that the latter, possessed of an expanse of territory infinitely larger and a population incomparably more numerous, should depend upon and be subject to a peninsular corner of the European continent.

The cessions and abdications at Bayonne, the revolutions of the Escorial and Aranjuez, and the orders of the royal substitute, the Duke of Berg, sent to America, suffice to give inherent power to the rights which until then the Americans had sacrificed to the unity and integrity of the Spanish nation.

Venezuela was the first to acknowledge and generously to preserve this integrity; not to abandon the cause of its brothers so long as the same retained the least hope of salvation.

America was called into a new existence, since she could and ought to take upon herself the charge of her own fate and preservation; as Spain might acknowledge or not the rights of a king who had preferred his own existence to the dignity of the nation over which he governed.

All the Bourbons concurred in the invalid stipulations of Bayonne, abandoning Spain against the will of the people; they violated, disdained, and trampled on the sacred duty they had contracted with the Spaniards of both worlds when with their blood and treasure they had placed them on the throne in defiance of the House of Austria. By such conduct they were left disqualified and incapable of governing a free people, whom they delivered up like a flock of slaves.

The intruding governments, who abrogated the national representation, made perfect use, to their own advantage, of the disposition, good faith, distance, coercion, and ignorance of the Americans, against the new dynasty introduced in Spain by force; and against its own principles maintained among us the illusion in favor of Ferdinand, in order to destroy and vex us with impunity when they were promising us liberty, equality, and fraternity in pompous speeches and studied phrases, to conceal the snare of a skilfull, useless, and degrading representation.

When they dissolved, substituted, and destroyed among themselves the different forms of Spanish government, and sheer necessity obliged Venezuela to preserve herself to discuss and maintain the King's rights, and offer an asylum to her brethren in Europe against the evils which menaced them, all her former conduct was disavowed, principles were changed, and what was formerly considered a rule by the Spanish governments, was called insurrection, perfidy, and ingratitude because the monopoly of administration, which they endeavored

to perpetuate in the name of an imaginary king, was on the point of ceasing.

Notwithstanding our protests, our moderations, our generosity, and the inviolability of our principles, contrary to the wishes of our brethren in Europe, we were declared in a state of rebellion; we were blockaded; war was declared against us; agents were sent among us to create discord, endeavoring to take away our credit with the other nations of Europe by imploring their assistance to oppress us.

Without taking the least notice of our reasons, without presenting them to the impartial judgment of the world, and without any other judges than our own enemies, we are condemned to a distressing incommunication with our brethren; and to add contempt to calumny, empowered agents are against us, against our own expressed will, that in their Cortes they may arbitrarily dispose of our interests under the influence and force of our enemies.

In order to crush and suppress the effects of our representation, when they were obliged to grant it to us, we were submitted to an unfair and mean tariff; and the form of election was subjected to the passive voice of the municipal bodies, degraded by the despotism of the governors, which amounted to an insult to our fair dealing and good faith, more than to a consideration of our incontestable political importance.

Always deaf to the cries of justice on our part, the governments of Spain have endeavored to discredit all our efforts by declaring as criminal and stamping with infamy and rewarding with the scaffold and confiscation every attempt that, at different periods, some Americans have made for the well-being of their country; as was that which lately our own security dictated to us that we might not be driven into a state of disorder which we foresaw, and hurried to that appalling fate which we are about to forever remove. By means of such atrocious policy they have succeeded in making our brethren insensible to our misfortunes, in arming them against us, in erasing from their bosoms the tender impressions of friendship and consanguinity, and converting into enemies a part of our own great family.

When we, being faithful to our promises, sacrificed our security and civil dignity in order not to abandon the rights which we generously maintained in favor of Ferdinand of Bourbon, have seen that to the relations of force which bound him to the Emperor of the French he has added sanguinary and friendly ties, for which even the governments of Spain have already declared their resolution to acknowledge him only conditionally.

In this unfortunate alternative we have remained three years in a state of political indecision and ambiguity so fatal and dangerous that this alone would suffice to authorize the resolution which the faith of our

promises and the bonds of fraternity had caused us to defer until necessity has obliged us to go beyond what we had at first proposed, impelled by the hostile and unnatural conduct of the Governments of Spain, which have disburdened us of our conditional oath, by which circumstance we are called to the august representation we now exercise.

But we, who glory in grounding our proceedings on better principles, and not wishing to establish our well-being on the misfortunes of our fellow-beings, do consider and declare as friends those who, united to us by the ties of blood, language, and religion, have suffered the same evils in the former order of things, provided they acknowledge our *absolute independence* of the same and of any other foreign power whatever; that they aid us to sustain it with their lives, fortunes, and sentiments, declaring and acknowledging them (as well as to every other nation) in war enemies, and in peace friends, brothers, and compatriots.

In consequence of all these solid, public, and incontestable reasons of policy, which so powerfully urge the necessity of recovering our natural dignity, restored to us by the order of events, and in compliance with the inprescribable rights enjoyed by nations to destroy every pact, agreement, or association which does not answer the purposes for which governments were established, we believe that we can not and ought not to preserve the bonds which hitherto kept us united to the Government of Spain, and that, like all the other nations of the world, we are free and authorized not to depend on any other authority than our own and to take among the powers of the earth the place of equality which the Supreme Being and nature assign to us, and to which we are called by the succession of human events and urged by our own good and utility.

Notwithstanding we are aware of the difficulties that attend and the obligations imposed upon us by the rank we are about to assume in the political order of the world, as well as the powerful influence of forms and habits to which unfortunately we have been accustomed, we at the same time know that the shameful submission to them, when we can throw them off, would be still more ignominious for us and more fatal to our prosperity than our long and painful slavery, and that it now becomes an indispensable duty to provide for our own preservation, security, and well-being by essentially varying all the forms of our former constitution.

In consequence whereof, considering, by the reasons thus alleged, that we have satisfied the respect that we owe to the human race and the dignity of other nations, in the number of whom we are about to enter and on whose communication and friendship we rely, we, the representatives of the united Provinces of Venezuela, calling on the Supreme Being to witness the justice of our proceedings and the rec-

titude of our intentions, do implore His divine and celestial aid; and ratifying, at the moment in which we are born to the dignity which His Providence restores to us, the desire we have of living and dying free and of believing and defending the holy catholic and apostolic religion of Jesus Christ, we therefore, in the name and by the will and authority that we hold from the virtuous people of Venezuela, do declare solemnly to the world that its united Provinces are, and ought to be, from this day, by act and right, free, sovereign, and independent states; and that they are absolved from every submission to and dependence on the throne of Spain, or on those who do or may call themselves its agents and representatives, and that a free and independent state, thus constituted, has full power to take that form of government which may be in conformity with the general will of the people—to declare war, make peace, form alliances, regulate treaties of commerce, limits, and navigation, and to do and transact every act in like manner as other free and independent states; and that this our solemn declaration may be held valid, firm, and durable, we hereby mutually bind each Province to the other, and pledge our lives, fortunes, and the sacred tie of our national honor. Done in the Federal Palace of Caracas, signed by our hands, sealed with the great provisional seal of the Confederation, and countersigned by the Secretary of the Congress, this fifth day of July, 1811, the first of our independence. (Here follow the signatures of representatives and Secretary of the Congress.)

CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES OF VENEZUELA.

The constituent Congress of the United States of Venezuela, in the name of God Almighty, and by authority of the people of Venezuela, decrees the following Constitution (1904):

TITLÉ I.

ARTICLE 1. The territory of the United States of Venezuela is the same which in 1810 corresponded to the Captaincy-General of Venezuela with the modifications resulting from subsequent public treaties.

ART. 2. The territory of the United States of Venezuela is divided into districts and Federal territories, with the limits and names established in the States' laws on territorial division and in the laws organizing the territories.

ART. 3. The districts which compose the Venezuelan Federation and which are its constituent parts shall be grouped to form the States of Aragua, Bermúdez, Boívar, Carabobo, Falcón, Guárico, Lara, Mérida, Miranda, Táchira, Trujillo, Zamora, and Zulia.

§ 1. The State of Aragua shall consist of the following districts: Bruzual, Girardot, Mariño, Ricaurte, Roscio, San Casimiro, San Sebastián, Urdaneta, and Zamora.

The State of Bermúdez shall consist of the following districts: Acosta, Aragua, Arismendi, Benítez, Bermúdez, Bolívar, Bruzual, Cajigal, Cedeño, Freytes, Libertad, Mejías, Monagas, Montes, Peñalver, Piar, Rivero, Sucre, and Zaraza.

The State of Bolívar shall consist of the following districts: Cedeño, Heres, Independencia, Miranda, Sotillo, Sucre, and Tadeo Monagas.

The State of Carabobo shall consist of the following districts: Bejuma, Falcón, Guacara, Montalbán, Nirgua, Ocumare, Puerto Cabello, and Valencia.

The State of Falcón shall consist of the following districts: Acosta, Bolívar, Buchivacoa, Colina, Democracia, Falcón, Federación, Miranda, Petit, Urdaneta, and Zamora.

The State of Guárico shall consist of the following districts: Achaguas, Infante, Miranda, with the municipality "El Calvario," Muñoz, and San Fernando.

The State of Lara shall consist of the following districts: Barquisimeto, Bruzual, Cabudare, Crespo, Quíbor, San Felipe, Silva, Sucre, Tucuyo, Torres, Urachiche, and Yaritagua.

The State of Mérida shall consist of the following districts: Campo Elías, Libertador, Miranda, Pedraza, Rangel, Rivas Dávila, Sucre, Torondoy, and Tovar.

The State of Miranda shall consist of the following districts: Acevedo, Brión, Lander, Monagas, Páez, Paz Castillo, Plaza, Urdaneta, and Zamora.

The State of Táchira shall consist of the following districts: Ayacucho, Bolívar, Cárdenas, Castro, Junín, La Grita, Lobatera, Páez, with the municipality of Elorza, San Cristóbal, and Uribante.

The State of Trujillo shall consist of the following districts: Betijoque, Boconó, Carache, Escuque, Trujillo, Urdaneta, and Valera.

The State of Zamora shall consist of the following districts: Acarigua, Anzoátegui, Araure, Arismendi, Barinas, Bolívar, Esteller, Girardot, Guanare, Guanarito, Obispos, Ospino, Pao, Ricaurte, Rojas, San Carlos, Sosa, Tinaco, and Turén.

The State of Zulia shall consist of the following districts: Bolívar, Colón, Mara, Maracaibo, Miranda, Páez, Perijá, Sucre, and Urdaneta.

§ 2. The controversies pending between the States of Táchira, Mérida, and Trujillo, with that of Zulia, and between those of Aragua and Carabobo, as well as any other existing between one State and another on account of their respective boundaries, shall be decided by the tribunal referred to in article 126 of this constitution.

ART. 4. The Federal Territories, to be organized by special laws, are the following: Amazonas, Cristóbal Colón, Colón, Delta-Amacuro, and Yuruari.

Sole section. The Federal Territories shall have the right to ask to be admitted to the rank of a State upon proof of the following circumstances:

1st. That their population is at least one hundred thousand inhabitants, and

2d. Upon proving to Congress that they are able to carry on the public service in all its branches and to meet the expense which it requires.

ART. 5. The Federal district, which shall be organized by a special law, shall consist of the Libertador, Vargas, Guaicaipuro, and Sucre departments and of the island of Margarita.

Sole section. The seat of the Federal Government is the Libertador department of the Federal district; but the executive power may establish its transitory residence in any other part of said district when required by unforeseen circumstances.

ART. 6. The territory of the nation can not be alienated in any way to any foreign power.

TITLE II.—BASES OF THE UNION.

ART. 7. The States that form the Venezuelan Union are autonomous and politically equal; they shall preserve, in all its plenitude, the sovereignty not delegated in this constitution and bind themselves:—

First. To organize in accordance with the principles of popular, elective, federal, representative, alternative, and responsible government, and to frame their respective constitutions establishing rules for their own interior government in conformity with the principles of this fundamental compact.

Second. To comply and cause others to comply with and execute the constitution and laws of the Union and decrees, orders, and resolutions issued by the national authorities in use of their legal rights and powers.

Third. To acknowledge in their respective constitutions the municipal autonomy of the districts and their independence from the political power of the State in everything relative to economic and administration matters, and consequently the districts shall have the power to establish their own system in accordance with numbers 10, 11, 12, and 13 of the bases of the Union.

In case of foreign or civil war the executive power of the States shall also assume the administration of the districts under their jurisdiction in revenue and economical matters with the advice of their legislative assembly, and if the latter is not in session, with that of its supreme court.

Fourth. To defend themselves against any aggression which may endanger their independence or the integrity of the nation.

Fifth. Not to alienate to any foreign power any portion of their territory nor to implore protection thereof or establish or cultivate political and diplomatic relations with other nations.

Sixth. Not to annex or ally themselves to any other nation or secede from Venezuela.

Seventh. To cede to the Government of the Federation the territory necessary for building forts, wharves, warehouses, navy-yards, penitentiaries, and any other works indispensable for the administration of the General Government.

Eighth. To leave to the Government of the Union the free administration of the Territories of Amazonas, Cristóbal Colón, Colón, Delta-Amacuro, and Yuruari; but the latter shall have the right to ask to be admitted to the rank of States upon fulfillment of the conditions required by article 4 of this constitution.

Ninth. To reserve to the Federal Government full jurisdiction, legislative as well as executive, concerning navigation, whether maritime, coastwise, or fluvial, and wharves and national roads, and the navigation of the rivers and other navigable waters shall not be burdened by taxation or privileges unless some especial work has been required.

Roads shall be national when leading either from one State to another or from one State to the Federal district or any Federal Territories.

Tenth. Not to levy taxes on natural products destined for exportation.

Eleventh. Not to levy taxes upon foreign products already burdened by national duties or exempted by law from duty, or upon cattle, products, effects, or articles of merchandise of any class whatever before being offered for consumption.

Twelfth. Not to forbid the consumption of cattle, articles, and other products of other States, or burden the consumption thereof with heavier or lighter taxes than those levied on their similar of the locality.

Thirteenth. Not to establish custom-houses for the collection of duties, since there shall only exist national ones.

Fourteenth. To reserve to each State the right to dispose of its natural products in the manner established by base 27 of the present article.

Fifteenth. To give entire faith and credit to all public acts and judicial proceedings of other States of the federal district and of the federal Territories and cause the same to be complied with and executed.

Sixteenth. To organize their tribunals and courts for the administration of justice and to have all the same substantive legislation in civil, commercial, and criminal matters as well as in matters of procedure.

Seventeenth. To concur to the formation of the supreme federal court (corte federal y. de casación) in the manner provided by this Constitution.

Eighteenth. To abide by the decisions of the supreme federal court as supreme court of the federation and the States.

Nineteenth. To adopt for the appointment of the members of the municipal councils, legislative assemblies, and House of Representatives the direct vote, and for their other officials of popular election the direct vote or by delegation; it being required to be secret in both cases and to be based on the electoral census, according to the federal law on the subject.

Twentieth. To reserve to the nation the right to legislate on superior public instruction. The nation as well as the States must establish gratuitous and compulsory primary instruction and free instruction for the arts and trades.

Twenty-first. Not to impose obligations upon national employes, except in the capacity of citizens of the State and inasmuch as these obligations may not be incompatible with the national public service.

Twenty-second. To contribute the proportional disarmed contingent which corresponds to them to compose the national public forces as may be provided by law.

Twenty-third. Not to permit in its territory forced enlistments or levies that may have for their object an attack on liberty or independence or a disturbance of the public order of the nation, of other States, or of another nation.

Twenty-fourth. Not to declare or wage war with each other in any case, and observe strict neutrality in all controversies that may arise between other States.

Twenty-fifth. To defer and submit to the decisions of the supreme federal court as supreme court of the union in all controversies that may arise between two or more States when they can not, by themselves and by peaceful means, reach an agreement. If, for any reason, in case of resorting to arbitration they fail to designate the arbitrator to whose decision they submit, the controversy is to be understood by this fact to have been referred to the supreme federal court. Controversies relative to boundaries are excepted and shall be settled according to articles 3 and 126 of this constitution.

Twenty-sixth. To recognize the jurisdiction of the supreme federal court as supreme tribunal of the States, to take cognizance of the causes arising out of treason or of violation of the constitution and laws of the Union, against those who exercise the first executive authority in the States, it being their duty to incorporate this provision in their constitutions.

These trials shall be conducted according to the rules of proceedings established by the general laws, and the decisions shall be rendered in conformity with the same.

Twenty-seventh. To consider as their only source of income:

1. The contribution collected in all the custom-houses of the Republic called the territorial tax.

2. The total yield of mining, public lands, and salt mines. This revenue shall be distributed proportionally among all the States according to the number of their inhabitants, to which effect sixty thousand inhabitants is established as minimum number corresponding to one State.

3. The share of the tobacco and alcohol revenue set apart for this purpose by law, said share to be distributed in proportion to the production and consumption of the States.

4. The product of the taxes on their natural productions.

5. The product of stamped paper in accordance with the respective laws.

Twenty-eighth. To delegate in the Congress of the union the power to create and organize the revenue referred to in numbers 1, 2, and 3 of the foregoing base 27.

Twenty-ninth. To cause political refugees to reside at a certain distance from the boundaries if so requested by the interested State.

TITLE III.—NATIONALITY.

SECTION 1.—*Venezuelans.*

ART. 8. Venezuelans are such either by birth or naturalization.

(a) Venezuelans by birth are:

1. All persons who have been or may be born on Venezuelan soil; and

2. The children of Venezuelan parents whatever may be the place of their birth.

(b) Venezuelans by naturalization are—

1. All persons born or that may be born in the Republics of Spanish America, provided they have acquired domicile in the Republic and shown their wish to become Venezuelans.

2. Foreigners who have obtained naturalization papers according to the laws.

3. Foreigners who become Venezuelans by virtue of special laws; and

4. Foreign women married to Venezuelans as long as the matrimonial bond is in existence; but if the marriage is dissolved and they wish to retain the Venezuelan nationality they shall be bound to make, within one year after the dissolution of the marriage, the declaration to which the following article refers.

ART. 9. The declaration of the wish to become a Venezuelan must be made before the principal registrar of the jurisdiction in which the person may establish his or her residence, and the former on receiving such a declaration shall record it in the respective protocol and shall forward a copy of it to the national executive to be published in the Official Gazette.

ART. 10. Venezuelan males over twenty-one years of age are electors and eligible, subject to no other conditions than those expressed in this constitution and the laws.

ART. 11. All Venezuelans are bound to serve the nation as may be provided by law.

ART. 12. Venezuelans shall enjoy the same rights and shall have the same duties through the whole territory of the Republic without any other conditions than those established in this constitution.

ART. 13. The rights and duties of foreigners shall be determined by law.

ART. 14. Foreigners, if taking part in the political disputes of the country, shall incur the same responsibilities as Venezuelans, and shall be subject to the provisions of item 8 of article 80.

ART. 15. Neither Venezuelans nor foreigners shall have, in any case, the right to claim indemnity of the nation or the States for damages, losses, or seizures of property which are not the work of lawful authorities acting in their public character.

ART. 16. The Government of Venezuela shall not conclude treaties with other nations to the detriment of the principles established by the two preceding articles.

SECTION 2.—*The rights of Venezuelans.*

ART. 17. The nation guarantees to Venezuelans:

1. Inviolability of life, capital punishment being abolished.

2. The right of property with all its attributes and privileges; property shall only be subject to the taxes levied by the legislative authority, to judicial decision, and condemnation for public use after previous indemnification under regular proceedings.

3. Inviolability of correspondence and other private papers, which shall not be taken possession of except by order of competent public authorities and with the formalities established by law; but always respecting the secrecy of domestic and private matters.

4. Inviolability of domicile, which shall not be trespassed on except to prevent the perpetration of crime, and even this has to be done in the manner and form provided by law.

5. Personal liberty, and therefore:

(1st) Forceful recruiting for the service of arms is abolished, and the said service shall be rendered in accordance with the provisions of the law.

(2d) Slavery shall be forever proscribed.

(3d) Slaves who tread Venezuelan soil shall be free.

(4th) All shall have the right to do what does not injure another person; and

(5th) Nobody is bound to do what the law does not provide nor be prevented from doing what it does not prohibit.

6. Freedom of thought expressed by word or by means of the press. In cases of libel, the injured party shall have the right to bring the offenders before the competent courts of justice according to law.

7. Freedom of transit without passport, and of change of residence on observing the legal formalities.

8. Liberty of industry; the law, however, may assign a temporal privilege to authors of discoveries and productions, and to those who may establish an industry that has not been worked in the country.

9. Freedom of meeting and associating without arms, publicly or privately, the authorities not having power to exercise any act of coercion.

10. Freedom of petition; the latter may be filed with any functionary, authority, or corporation, and they shall be compelled to give prompt resolution. When the petition is made by several persons the first five shall answer for the authenticity of the signatures and all for the truth of the facts set forth.

11. Freedom of suffrage without other restrictions than those established by this constitution and the laws.

12. Freedom of teaching.

13. Religious liberty according to the laws and under the supreme inspection of the President of the Republic.

14. Personal security, and therefore:

(1st) No Venezuelan shall be imprisoned or arrested for debts which do not arise from fraud or crime.

(2d) Nor to be tried by special courts or commissions, but by his natural judges and according to preexisting laws.

(3d) Nor be imprisoned or detained except on summary information of having committed a crime which deserves corporal punishment and on the written order of the functionary who directs the imprisonment, stating the nature thereof, except when caught *in fraganti*.

(4th) Nor be deprived of communication for any reason or pretext.

(5th) Nor be obliged to take oath, nor to undergo examination in a criminal cause against himself, nor against his relatives within the fourth degree of consanguinity or second of affinity, nor against his or her consort.

(6th) Nor to remain in prison if the grounds upon which it was decreed are destroyed.

(7th) Nor be condemned to suffer punishment in criminal matters except after having been summoned and heard legally; and

(8th) Nor be condemned to corporal punishment for over fifteen years.

15. Equality. In virtue of which:

(1st) All must be tried by the very same laws and subject to equal duties, service, and taxes.

(2d) No titles of nobility, honors, and hereditary distinctions will be

granted, nor employments or offices the salaries or emoluments of which continue after the termination of service; and

(3d) No other official treatment than "citizen" and "you" will be given to employés and corporations.

ART. 18. The foregoing enumeration does not abridge the power of the States to grant other rights to their inhabitants.

ART. 19. These rights and guaranties may be suspended in the cases and with the formalities provided by item 8 of article 80 of this Constitution.

ART. 20. Those who should issue, sign, execute, or cause to be executed, except in the cases set forth in item 8 of article 80, any decrees, orders, or resolutions that violate the guaranties accorded to Venezuelans, are guilty and must be punished according to the law.

ART. 21. The rights recognized and guaranteed in the foregoing articles shall not be lessened or impaired by laws regulating their exercise, and all laws violating this principle shall be, as provided in item 11 of article 95, unconstitutional and inefficient.

TITLE IV.—NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY AND PUBLIC POWER.

ART. 22. Sovereignty is vested essentially in the people, who exercise it through the public powers.

ART. 23. The definition of duties and prerogatives establishes the limit of public power, and any act not comprised within the limits of said definition constitutes an usurpation of prerogatives.

ART. 24. All usurped authority is inefficient and its acts are null and void.

ART. 25. Decisions reached by direct or indirect use of force or of a meeting of the people in a subversive attitude is null by law and lacks efficiency.

ART. 26. The Government of the Union is and shall always be republican, federal, democratic, elective, representative, alternative, and responsible.

ART. 27. The exercise of public power implies personal responsibility in case it is carried beyond the powers vested by Congress or for violation of the law which organizes its functions according to the terms of this constitution.

ART. 28. Public power is distributed between the Federal power and the power of the States within the bounds established by this constitution.

ART. 29. Federal power is divided into legislative, executive, and judicial.

TITLE V.—LEGISLATIVE POWER.

SECTION 1.—*Legislative power.*

ART. 30. Legislative power is vested in an assembly called "Congress of the United States of Venezuela," consisting of two Chambers, one of Senators and another of Deputies.

SECTION 2.—*The Chamber of Deputies.*

ART. 31. To form the Chamber of Deputies each State shall elect, by direct vote in accordance with the electoral law, one Deputy for each forty thousand inhabitants and one more for an excess of twenty thousand. The State whose population does not reach forty thousand inhabitants shall elect one Deputy. In the same manner it shall elect the same number of alternates as of principals to fill the vacancies that may occur in the order of their election.

Sole section. The Deputies shall hold office for six years.

ART. 32. The Deputies must be natural-born citizens of Venezuela and not less than twenty-one years of age.

ART. 33. The Federal District and Federal Territories which have or may have the basis of population established in article 31 shall likewise elect their Deputies by direct vote with the formalities provided by law.

Sole section. Unsubdued aborigines are not computed as forming a basis of population.

ART. 34. The House of Deputies has power:

(1) To issue a vote of censure against any cabinet minister, and by this fact the position is vacated.

(2) To appoint, within the first fifteen days of its installation, during the first year of the corresponding period the attorney-general of the nation and two alternates, in successive votes and by absolute majority. These officials shall be legally sworn in before the supreme federal court to discharge their functions, which shall be determined by law; and

(3) All the others which the law may specify

SECTION 3.—*The Senate.*

ART. 35. To form this Chamber the legislative assembly of each State shall elect, outside its number, two principal Senators and two alternates to fill their vacancies, according to the order of election.

Sole section. Senators are appointed for a term of six years.

ART. 36. Senators must be natural-born citizens of Venezuela and not less than thirty years old.

ART. 37. The Senate has power:

(1) To grant to distinguished Venezuelans twenty-five years after death the honor of having their mortal remains deposited in the national pantheon.

(2) To give or withhold its consent to national functionaries for admitting gifts, commissions, honors, and rewards from foreign countries; and

(3) The others that the law may provide.

SECTION 4.--*Provisions common to both Chambers.*

ART. 38. The Legislative Chambers will meet every two years in the capital of the Union on the 23d day of May, or as soon thereafter as possible, without the necessity of previous convocation. The sessions shall last for ninety days, and this period shall not be extended.

ART. 39. The Chambers shall be called to order with at least two-thirds of their number, and in default of this number those present shall assemble in preparatory commission and adopt measures for the concurrence of the absentees.

ART. 40. The sessions having been opened, they may be continued with the attendance of the absolute majority of all the members elected.

ART. 41. The Chambers shall act separately, and they may assemble in Congress when so provided by the Constitution and laws or when one of the two Chambers may deem it necessary. If the Chamber that is invited agrees to it, it is the latter which fixes the day and hour of the joint session.

ART. 42. The sessions shall be public, but they may be secret when so decided by the Chamber.

ART. 43. The Chambers have the right:

(1) To make their own rules to regulate the debates and to correct infractors.

(2) To keep a police force in the building in which their meetings are held.

(3) To punish spectators who create disorder.

(4) To remove the obstacles that may be opposed to the free exercise of their functions.

(5) To enforce their own resolutions; and

(6) To judge of the qualifications of their members and to consider their resignations.

ART. 44. The Chambers shall hold their sessions in the same city and shall close them on the same day, and neither one nor the other can suspend them or change their residence without the consent of the other. In case of disagreement they shall meet in congress and execute what the latter may resolve.

ART. 45. The exercise of any other public function during its sessions is incompatible with those of a Senator or Deputy. The law shall fix the salaries that the members of the national legislature shall receive for their services, which salaries shall not be increased except for the following term.

ART. 46. Senators and Deputies shall enjoy immunity from thirty days previous to the 23d of May until thirty days after the close of the sessions; and the immunity consists in the suspension of all civil or criminal proceedings, whatever may be their origin or nature. If anyone should commit an offense deserving corporal punishment the

investigation shall continue until the case is ready for trial, and no further steps shall be taken so long as the period of immunity lasts.

ART. 47. The Chambers shall have no power in any case to allow the immunity provided for in the preceding article to be violated in regard to any of its members. Magistrates, authorities, corporations, or their agents which may deprive a Senator or Deputy of their liberty during the enjoyment of their immunity shall be committed for trial before the competent judicial authority, and they may be accused by any citizen to this effect, by which fact they are removed from office without prejudice of the penalties provided by law for infringement of the constitution.

ART. 48. Congress shall be presided over by the President of the Senate, and the presiding officer of the Chamber of Deputies will act as Vice-President.

ART. 49. The members of the Chambers are not responsible for their vote or the opinions they express in session.

ART. 50. Senators and Deputies cannot enter into personal contracts or for a third party with the national executive, nor conduct the prosecution of claims of others against it.

ART. 51. When through death or any other cause producing absolute vacancy the number of alternates from a State in the Senate has been exhausted or reduced below the rate corresponding to it, the respective Legislative Assembly shall fill the vacancy for the balance of the time which the member or members, alternate or alternates, had still to serve. In regard to vacancies occurring in the Chamber of Deputies the constitutions of the States shall determine the manner to fill them.

SECTION 5.—*Powers vested in Congress.*

ART. 52. The powers vested in the Congress of the United States of Venezuela are:

(1) To take cognizance of the resignations of the President and Vice-Presidents of the Republic;

(2) To examine, approve or disapprove the accounts that must be submitted to it by the Cabinet Ministers in conformity with Article 86 of this Constitution;

(3) To enact the organic and electoral laws of the Federal District and Federal Territories. In the Federal District the law shall proclaim the autonomy of the Municipality in economical and executive matters and shall determine how it shall discharge its power in conformity with the provisions of this constitution, so as to avoid conflicts with the liberty of political action of the high Federal Powers residing therein. In case of war its first civil and political authority shall assume the administration of all the mentioned branches;

(4) To raise to the condition of States the Federal Territories which

may ask for it, provided that the conditions of Article 4 of this constitution be complied with;

(5) To lay and collect the national taxes;

(6) To sanction the National Codes according to item 16 of Article 7 of this constitution and the Federal Code of Public Instruction, the Fiscal and Military and Naval Codes and the laws conducive to the organization of the National Militia;

(7) To fix the standard, value, fineness, weight, and coinage of the national money, provided that it be on a gold basis, and decide concerning the admission and circulation of foreign currency;

(8) To create, abolish, and fix the salaries of national offices;

(9) To determine everything relative to the national debt and its interest;

(10) To make loans on the credit of the nation;

(11) To decree everything relative to statistics and the national census, the latter to be taken every ten years;

(12) To approve or disapprove diplomatic treaties and conventions, which without this required approval shall not be valid and will not be ratified or exchanged. The law of approval passed by Congress shall not be executed until it is known that the treaty has been accepted by the other party. Treaties shall not be published until they have been ratified and exchanged;

(13) To approve or disapprove contracts of national interest which the Federal Executive may conclude;

(14) To sanction the general budget of public revenue and expenditure;

(15) To fix the national weights and measures and make them uniform;

(16) To enact all the laws for carrying into execution the powers vested by this constitution in the Federal Powers, as also all others of general character which may be necessary;

(17) To elect the electoral body provided by Article 70 of this constitution; and

(18) To elect the Supreme Federal Court in conformity with Articles 91, 92, and 93 of this constitution.

ART. 53. The acts sanctioned by either of the Legislative Chambers of Venezuela, passed separately as collegiate bodies, shall be called "*laws*" (*leyes*), and those sanctioned in Congress assembled, or separately, on matters exclusively vested in each Chamber shall be called *resolutions* (*acuerdos*).

SECTION 6.—*Formation of laws.*

ART. 54. The power to initiate legislation is equally vested in both Chambers and can be exercised by any of their members.

ART. 55. When a bill has been introduced it shall be read and considered for the purpose of admission, and if admitted it shall be dis-

cussed three times, one day at least intervening between each discussion, according to the rules established for the debates.

ART. 56. Bills that have been approved in the Chamber in which they originated shall be passed to the other Chamber for the purposes of the foregoing article, and if they are not disapproved shall be returned to the Chamber of origin, with the amendments, if any, made to it.

ART. 57. If the Chamber of origin does not accept the amendments it shall have the right to insist upon its own draft, and shall send to the other Chamber a statement in writing of its reasons therefor. It can also invite the other Chamber to assemble in Congress and decide it in a committee of the whole, in order to facilitate an agreement; but if this cannot be effected the bill shall be void, on the Chamber of origin resolving separately the ratification of its insistence.

ART. 58. When bills are passed from one Chamber to the other the days on which they have been discussed shall be set forth.

ART. 59. Bills rejected in the sessions of one year can not be presented anew, but in those of another year.

ART. 60. Bills remaining pending in one chamber at the close of the sessions shall be submitted in it to the same three discussions in the sessions of the following year.

ART. 61. The enacting clause to be used in the laws shall be as follows:

“The Congress of the United States of Venezuela decrees.”

ART. 62. A law reforming another law shall be given in full and the preceding law shall be repealed in all its parts.

ART. 63. Laws are repealed with the same formalities established for their enactment.

ART. 64. Legislative acts once sanctioned shall be communicated in duplicate to the President of the Republic and shall be published in the Congressional Record (*Diario de Debates*) of the Senate and shall be binding as soon as the formalities established in item 1 of article 80 of this constitution are fulfilled. The President of the Republic, through the minister who countersigns the acts, shall return one of the two copies to Congress with the order for its enforcement.

Sole section. In the publication that shall be made in the Congressional Record, mention shall be made of the date on which the laws and decrees have been laid before the President of the Republic, so that after the lapse of fifteen days, to which refers the aforesaid item 1 of article 80, they may have anyhow their force and vigor.

ART. 65. That power to legislate vested in Congress can not be delegated.

ART. 66. No legislative provision shall be given retroactive effect, except in matters of judicial proceedings and when the new law imposes a lesser penalty.

ART. 67. When a cabinet minister has maintained in the chambers that a bill is unconstitutional and nevertheless it is passed as a law, the attorney-general shall denounce the collision in order that the point may be settled, according to article 95.

TITLE VI.—THE FEDERAL EXECUTIVE POWER.

SECTION 1.—*The general administration of the Union.*

ART. 68. Everything concerning the administration of the General Government not vested by this constitution in any other authority falls under the jurisdiction of the Federal Executive. This power is exercised by a magistrate, who shall be called President of the United States of Venezuela, assisted by the cabinet ministers, who are his representatives. The President shall be elected in the manner and form provided in the following section.

ART. 69. The functions of the National Executive can not be exercised outside of the Federal District except in the cases described in this constitution.

SECTION 2.—*Election of the President of the United States of Venezuela.*

ART. 70. There shall be an electoral body consisting of 14 members of the National Congress elected by the latter within the first fifteen days of its meeting in the first year of each Presidential period, so that the body may consist of one representative, either a senator or a deputy, for each one of the political entities and an additional deputy for the Federal District.

ART. 71. On the following day that Congress has elected the said electoral body the latter shall proceed to its organization with the number of those present, provided that this number is not less than two-thirds of all the members elected to compose the body, and it shall select out of their number the one who is to act as chairman.

ART. 72. The electoral body, as soon as it is organized, shall appoint one of the three following days to elect, out of their number or elsewhere, in permanent public session, the President of the United States of Venezuela. This designation shall be published by the press, and in order to effect the election at least two-thirds must be present of the total number of members composing the electoral body, and the one who shall have obtained the absolute majority of said total shall be proclaimed elected. The electoral body shall declare its labors at an end and the respective act shall be drawn and subscribed by all the members, who shall occupy anew their places in the respective chambers.

Sole section. The electoral body, in the same session on which it shall elect the President of the United States of Venezuela, shall also elect, with the formalities provided for the election of the President and with the conditions of the latter, a first and second vice-president to fill the former's temporary or absolute vacancy.

SECTION 3.—*The President of the United States of Venezuela.*

ART. 73. The President of the United States of Venezuela shall be a natural-born Venezuelan, over thirty years of age, and prior to entering into exercise of his functions shall make before Congress the legal promise.

Sole section. The vice-presidents shall make their legal promise before Congress, or, if it is not in session, before the President of the Republic.

ART. 74. In case of temporary or absolute disability of the President the vacancies shall be filled by a first and a second vice-president, according to the order of their election.

In case the second vice-president takes charge, due to absolute disability of the President or first vice-president, or if this disability occurs during the time he is in charge of the Presidency, he shall convoke immediately the Senate to elect the person who shall replace him.

ART. 75. The powers originally and exclusively vested in the President of the United States of Venezuela, as such, are the following:

- (1) To appoint and remove the cabinet ministers;
- (2) To receive and welcome the public ministers of other nations;
- (3) To sign the official letters to the sovereigns or chief magistrates of other countries;
- (4) To administer the government of the Federal district according to law and to act therein as the chief civil and political authority;
- (5) To administer the government of the Federal Territories according to their own organic laws;
- (6) To conduct war and command in person the army, or appoint some one else to do it; and
- (7) To leave temporarily the capital of the Republic when so demanded by matters of public interest, having also the right to withdraw temporarily from the exercise of his functions, provided he calls the person who is to replace him according to this constitution; and when the cause which produced the separation has ceased he shall anew take charge, it being only required that he shall so acquaint the person who discharges the presidency for the time being.

ART. 76. The President of the Union shall lay before Congress personally, or through one of his ministers, within the first ten days of the ordinary sessions, a comprehensive message in which he shall report his administration and political acts, informing in regard to the state of the Republic and indicating the improvements which might be adopted in the legislation in force.

ART. 77. The President of the United States of Venezuela shall not be reelected for the period immediately following.

ART. 78. The law shall establish the salary to be paid to the President of the Republic or to the person who replaces him, which salary shall not be increased except in the following constitutional period.

ART. 79. The President of the Republic, or the person who replaces him, is responsible for treason or for common offenses.

SECTION 4.—Powers vested in the Federal Executive.

ART. 80. The Federal Executive has power—

(1) To order the enforcement of this constitution and the laws and decrees of the National Congress and see that they are obeyed and enforced and order them published in the Official Gazette within the first fifteen days of having received them, except as provided in item 12 of art. 52;

(2) To issue decrees or rules for the better execution of the laws whenever the latter expressly establish it in their text, taking care not to alter the spirit or the reason of the law;

(3) To convoke Congress to extraordinary session when so demanded by the gravity of some matter;

(4) To organize the army and the national militia according to law;

(5) To preserve the nation from any foreign attack;

(6) To declare war;

(7) To defend the Federal district when there are serious apprehensions that it may be invaded by foreign forces;

(8) To make use, in cases of foreign war or domestic commotion or rebellion in arms against the institutions, having previously declared that public order is disturbed, and until the reestablishment of peace, of the following faculties:

A. To ask the States for the necessary aid for the national defense of the institutions;

B. To collect taxes in advance;

C. To arrest, confine, or expel from the territory of the Republic national or foreign individuals who may be contrary to the reestablishment of peace;

D. To suspend the rights, the exercise of which may be incompatible with the defense of the country or the reestablishment of order except the inviolability of life;

E. To fix the place where the general power of the Union may be established temporarily when serious motives so demand it;

F. To order the committal for trial for treason of Venezuelans who in any way may be hostile to the national defense; and

G. To issue letters of marque and reprisals.

(9) To make use of the public force in case that the interposition of their good offices proves to be inefficient to put an end to armed conflict between two or more States and compel them to depose arms and cause their controversies to be decided according to item 25 of art. 7 of this constitution. This power shall also be exercised in case of armed rebellion in any of the States of the Union, after peaceful and conciliatory means to reestablish peace and public order are exhausted;

(10) To direct the attorney-general of the nation to ask the annulment of any act violating the bases of the Union and to initiate impeachment proceedings whenever proper;

(11) To grant amnesties and pardons;

(12) To negotiate the loans to be contracted by order of Congress in strict conformity with the law authorizing them;

(13) To take charge of and superintend the collection of the national revenue;

(14) To manage public lands, mines, salt mines, and the tobacco and alcohol revenue according to law;

(15) To conduct diplomatic negotiations and conclude all kinds of treaties with other nations through the diplomatic agents of the Republic, submitting said treaties to the national Congress for the purposes set forth in item 12 of art. 52;

(16) To enter into contracts of national interest according to law;

(17) To regulate the Federal post-office, telegraphic, and telephonic services, having power to create or abolish stations or offices which may claim these urgent measures, reporting the same to Congress in its next meeting;

(18) To adopt the necessary measures so that the census of the Republic be taken every ten years;

(19) To issue navigation patents to all national vessels;

(20) To issue certificates of nationality according to law;

(21) To allow or forbid the admission of foreigners to the service of the Republic;

(22) To forbid, when so deemed expedient, the admission into the national territory or to expulse from it foreigners who have no established domicile in the country;

(23) To prohibit and prevent the ingress into the territory of the Republic of foreigners especially devoted to the service of any worship or religion, no matter what their order or rank may be;

(24) To appoint national functionaries whose appointment is not to be made by another functionary;

(25) To remove the functionaries of their free election and direct that they may be suspended or tried if there is any reason therefor; and

(26) To discharge all other functions which may be established by law.

SECTION 5.—*The cabinet ministers.*

ART. 81. The President of the United States of Venezuela shall have for his cabinet the ministers which the law may determine. It shall establish their functions and duties and shall organize their departments.

ART. 82. To be a cabinet minister it is required to be a natural-born Venezuelan over twenty-five years of age.

ART. 83. The ministers are the legal representatives, the only and precise ones, of the President of the United States of Venezuela. All his acts shall be countersigned by the minister or ministers from whose departments the acts may depend, and without which formality they are void and shall not be obeyed or carried into execution by authorities, functionaries, or private persons.

ART. 84. All the acts of the ministers must be done in accordance with this constitution and the laws. An order to the contrary from the President of the Republic, even if given in writing, shall not exempt them from responsibility.

ART. 85. The responsibility of those acts of the President which must be transacted in cabinet meeting corresponds to the minister who countersigned them.

ART. 86. The ministers shall report to the Chambers every two years within the first ten days of their ordinary sessions by means of itemized memorials accompanied with documents of what they may have effected or pretend to do in their respective branches. They shall also give the written or verbal reports which may be asked of them, and they shall submit likewise within the first ten days of the second month of the sessions of the Chambers the general budget of revenues and expenditures and the general account of the two preceding years.

ART. 87. The ministers shall have access to the floor of the Chambers and the right to address them verbally. They shall be bound by duty to appear before them when summoned for that purpose.

ART. 88. Ministers shall be responsible:

- (1) For treason;
- (2) For violation of the constitution and the laws;
- (3) For spending money in excess of the appropriation;
- (4) For bribery in the dispatch of the affairs commended to their charge or in the appointment of national functionaries;
- (5) For embezzlement of public funds; and
- (6) For common offenses.

TITLE VII.

SECTION 1.—*Judicial power.*

ART. 89. The judicial power of the Republic is vested in the supreme Federal court and in the other tribunals and courts that may be established by law.

ART. 90. The functionaries of the judicial power are responsible, in the cases determined by law, for treason; for bribery in the fulfillment of their functions; for violation of the constitutional laws, and for common offenses.

SECTION 2.—*Supreme Federal court.*

(Corte Federal y de Casación.)

ART. 91. The supreme Federal court is the supreme tribunal of the Federation and of the States, and shall consist of seven members elected by Congress within the first thirty days of its meeting in the first year of each constitutional period.

Sole section. The members of the supreme Federal court shall be natural-born Venezuelans over thirty years of age and lawyers of the Republic.

ART. 92. For the appointment of the members of the supreme Federal court the representatives in Congress of the States and of the Federal District shall be grouped as hereafter explained, and each group shall nominate two candidates out of whom Congress shall select the member of the supreme Federal court, who shall represent it in each group:

First group. State of Miranda and Federal District.

Second group. States of Aragua and Guárico.

Third group. States of Carabobo and Zamora.

Fourth group. States of Lara and Falcón.

Fifth group. States of Táchira and Trujillo.

Sixth group. States of Mérida and Zulia.

Seventh group. States of Bermúdez and Bolívar.

ART. 93. The supreme Federal court shall be elected by Congress by secret vote and in permanent session.

Sole section. The seven candidates nominated by the groups, who are not elected as members of the supreme Federal court, are by this very fact to be considered alternates of the respective members.

ART. 94. The members of the supreme Federal court shall hold office for six years and can be reelected. The absolute vacancies of principals and alternates shall be filled by Congress, and during its recess by the President of the Republic. The court shall be bound to give notice to either Congress or the President when a vacancy occurs.

ART. 95. The supreme Federal court has power:

(1) To take cognizance of cases of impeachment of the President of the Republic or the official acting as such, the cabinet ministers, the attorney-general of the nation, the governor of the Federal District, and its own members in the cases in which said functionaries are responsible according to this constitution.

(2) To take cognizance of criminal cases or of cases of impeachment instituted against the Presidents of the States and other high functionaries of said States, according to the laws thereof, applying, in cases of impeachment, the laws of the respective States, and in their default the general laws of the nation.

In the two foregoing cases the court shall decide whether the formal

trial must or must not take place. In the first case the functionary shall by this fact be suspended, and in the second case the proceedings shall be at once discontinued. When the offense be a common one the case shall pass to the ordinary tribunals, and when it be of a political nature the court shall continue to try it until a final sentence.

(3) To take cognizance of the civil or criminal cases instituted against diplomatic agents in the cases allowed by the law of nations.

(4) To take cognizance of cases of impeachment instituted against diplomatic agents of the Republic accredited to other countries for malfeasance of office.

(5) To take cognizance, when allowed by law, of civil cases in which the nation appears as defendant.

(6) To take cognizance of the appeal of writ of error in the form and terms established by law.

(7) To take cognizance of the cases of prize.

(8) To decide, except in the cases established in articles 3 and 126 of this constitution, the controversies that may arise between functionaries of a political order of different States, between those of one or more States and those of the Union or the Federal District, between those of the Union among themselves or with those of the Federal District, and between tribunals and national functionaries in matters within the jurisdiction of the court.

(9) To decide the conflicts of jurisdiction that may arise between the employés or functionaries of the Judicial order of different States and between those of the latter with the national and Federal District employés, and between those of one State or of the Federal District whenever there is no other authority especially called upon to decide them;

(10) To declare the invalidity of national laws or of the States when they are in conflict with the constitution of the Republic;

(11) To declare which shall be the law in force when the national ones are in conflict among themselves or these with those of the States;

(12) To declare the invalidity of all the acts of the Legislative Chamber or of the Federal Executive when violating the rights guaranteed to the States or attacking their autonomy;

(13) To declare the invalidity of all the acts to which refer articles 24 and 25 of this constitution, provided they have been issued by a national authority or of the Federal District or by high functionaries of the States;

(14) To take cognizance of all the controversies arising out of contracts or negotiations concluded by the President of the Republic;

(15) To decide, subject to the stipulations contained in public treaties, when and in which cases foreign judgments can be enforced, in accordance with the conditions established by law; and

(16) The other powers that may be granted by this Constitution and the laws.

ART. 96. The Supreme Federal Court shall render account every two years to the National Congress regarding its labors, and at the same time shall inform it of the obstacles which, in their opinion, are opposed to the uniformity of civil, criminal, and commercial legislation.

ART. 97. The members of the Supreme Federal Court who have begun to discharge their functions, and during the time they are discharging them, shall not accept any office depending from the Federal Executive.

ART. 98. The law shall determine the salaries to be paid to the members of the Supreme Federal Court.

SECTION 3.—*The Attorney-General of the Nation.*

ART. 99. The Prosecution Branch of the Government is entrusted to the Attorney-General of the Nation according to law.

ART. 100. To be Attorney-General of the Nation it is required to be a natural-born Venezuelan over 30 years of age and a lawyer of the Republic.

ART. 101. The Attorney-General of the Nation shall hold office for two years, and can be reelected, and his temporal or absolute vacancies shall be filled by two alternates in the order of their election.

ART. 102. The Attorney-General has power:

- (1) To secure the enforcement of the laws and executive orders.
- (2) To give his opinion in matters of law when so requested by the Federal Executive and the Supreme Federal Court;
- (3) To take care that all the federal functionaries fulfill their duty;
- (4) To bring charges in behalf of the President of the Republic before the competent authority against the federal functionaries for nonfulfillment of their official duties, making them, therefore, responsible;
- (5) To act as prosecuting officer in the cases referred to in Items 1, 2, 4, and 5 of article 95 of this Constitution;
- (6) To report to the President of the Republic the action taken by him in the fulfillment of his duties, as specified in Items 1, 3, and 4 of this same article;
- (7) To appear in the name of the Nation in the cases in which the latter has an interest and defend her rights in the actions or claims brought against her, acting in either case in accordance with the instructions given him by the Federal Executive; and
- (8) To fulfill all the other duties assigned to him by the constitution and laws.

TITLE VIII.—GENERAL DISPOSITIONS.

ART. 103. All that is not expressly ascribed in this constitution to the General Administration of the Nation shall remain within the jurisdictional powers of the States. The latter shall determine, in their respective constitutions, that the constitutional periods of their public powers be of three years, beginning on the first of January, 1905.

ART. 104. Every magistrate, authority, or corporation is debarred from the exercise of any function which has not been especially ascribed to him by the constitutional laws.

ART. 105. The courts of justice in the States are independent. The cases and causes instituted before them shall be ended within the same States, subject to no other revision than that of the Supreme Federal Court in the cases provided by law.

ART. 106. Any acts of the Legislative Chambers or of the Federal Executive violating rights guaranteed to the States or impairing their autonomy shall be nullified by the Supreme Federal Court in use of the powers given it in Item 12 of article 95.

ART. 107. The public national force is divided into naval and land forces and shall consist of the militia that may be organized by law.

ART. 108. The public force in charge of the National Power shall consist of a number of men to be furnished by each State in proportion to its population selected among those who, according to law, must render this service.

ART. 109. In case of war this contingent may be increased by calling the militia until completing the number of men necessary to fill the demand of the National Government.

ART. 110. Military and civil authority shall never be exercised simultaneously by one and the same person or corporation except in the cases of disturbance of the public order.

ART. 111. The Nation being, as it is, in possession of the right of ecclesiastic patronate, shall exercise it according to the provisions of the law of July 28, 1824.

ART. 112. The National Government shall not have in the States other functionaries residing there with jurisdiction or authority but the employés of the same States. Are excepted the finance employés; those of public instruction; those which may be required according to the organization that Congress may give to mines, public lands, salt mines, and tobacco and alcohol tax according to the power vested by Item 28 of article 7 of this constitution, and others of the forces which may be destined to guard the frontiers and those in charge of fortresses, parks, naval stations, and open ports, who shall have jurisdiction only in regard to their respective functions and within the limits of fortresses and armories, naval stations, and open ports; although they are subject to the general laws of the State in which they reside

and subject to be immediately removed or replaced by the Federal Executive or by whom corresponds on demand of the respective government of the State for sufficient legal reason.

ART. 113. National employés shall not receive gifts, commissions, honors, and compensations from foreign countries without the consent of the Senate.

ART. 114. All war material belongs to the nation.

ART. 115. Every citizen shall have power to proffer charges against national employés and employés of the States before the tribunals or superior authorities which the laws may designate.

ART. 116. No payment shall be made by the national treasury which is not expressly authorized by an item in the general appropriation bill, and whoever violates this provision shall be held civilly responsible to the national treasury for the amounts paid. In making payments ordinary expenditures shall be given preference over extraordinary expenses.

ART. 117. Neither the legislative power nor any authority of the Republic shall, under any circumstances whatever, nor for any reason, issue paper money nor declare bank notes as legal tender nor any value represented in paper. Neither can there be decreed any coinage of silver or nickel money without previous authority from the National Congress given with the same formalities established to sanction laws.

ART. 118. The offices for the collection of national taxes and the disbursing offices shall always be separate. The former shall pay nothing except the salaries of their own employés.

ART. 119. At election time the national public force and that of the States shall be kept within the armories.

ART. 120. In international treaties a clause shall be inserted to the effect that "*all differences between the contracting parties shall be decided by arbitration without appeal to war.*"

ART. 121. No person shall hold, at the same time, more than one paid office depending from Congress or the Federal Executive. The acceptance of any second office whatever is considered as equivalent to the resignation of the first. From this disposition are excepted the employés of public instruction.

ART. 122. Armed force can not deliberate—it is passive and obedient. No armed force can make requisitions or demand aid of any kind whatever, but to civil authorities, and in the manner and form determined by law. Chiefs of forces violating this provision shall be tried and punished according to the law.

ART. 123. A law shall regulate the manner in which national employés, on taking possession of their offices, are to make oath for the compliance of their duties.

ART. 124. No contract of public interest concluded by the Federal

Government, or by that of the States, by municipalities, or by any other public power, shall be transferred in whole or in part to any foreign government, and in all contracts the following clause shall be included, and if omitted it shall be considered as included, viz: "*The doubts and controversies of any nature that may arise in regard to this contract, and which can not be amicably settled by the contracting parties, shall be decided by the competent tribunals of Venezuela in conformity with its laws, and shall not in any case be made the cause for international claims.*" All companies to be formed for the execution of said contracts shall be Venezuelan, and for this reason shall establish their legal domicile in the country.

ART. 125. The law of nations forms part of the national legislation, but its provisions shall not be invoked when they are opposed to the constitution and laws of the Republic.

ART. 126. The controversies existing between the districts on account of their limits and those which in the future may arise due to the same cause shall be submitted by the respective States for decision to a court of arbitration of the free appointment of the Federal Executive.

ART. 127. This Constitution is liable to amendments and additions, but neither one nor the other shall be decreed by the National Congress except in ordinary sessions, and when so desired by three-fourths of the legislative assemblies of the States in ordinary session.

ART. 128. Amendments or additions to the constitution shall be made with the same formalities established to sanction laws.

ART. 129. When the amendment or addition has been agreed upon by the National Congress its president shall submit it to the legislative assemblies of the States for their final ratification.

ART. 130. Congress can likewise take the initiative in amendments or additions and agree to them with the same formalities set down in the foregoing article, but in this case they shall not be considered as sanctioned without the ratification of three-fourths of the legislative assemblies of the States.

ART. 131. If legislative assemblies of the States or the legislative chambers initiate amendments or additions the final vote of the States shall revert always to the National Congress, which is the one called upon to count the votes and to order the promulgation of the amendment or addition if it is sanctioned.

ART. 132. Constitutional periods of the Federal power shall last six years from the 23rd day of May, 1905.

ART. 133. At the conclusion of each period, and precisely on May 23rd, the President of the United States of Venezuela shall cease in the exercise of his functions and the minister of interior relations shall enter into the discharge of the Presidency of the Republic for the effects of the transmission of power.

ART. 134. For all the acts of the civil and political life of the States the basis of population shall be that determined by the last census of the Republic approved by Congress.

ART. 135. In all public acts and official documents of the nation and of the States mention shall be made of the date of the Independence from July 5, 1811, and that of the Federation from February 20, 1859.

ART. 136. The present constitution, signed by all the members of the Constituent Congress who are in this capital, and with the "*Bé it executed*" of the Federal Executive, shall be immediately promulgated in the Federal district and in the States and Territories of the Union as soon as received there.

ART. 137. The constitution of March 29, 1901, is hereby repealed.

Given in the Legislative Federal Palace, in Caracas, on the twenty-seventh day of April, nineteen hundred and four, 93rd year of the Independence and 46 of the Federation.

(Here follow the signatures of the presidents, vice-presidents, and second vice-presidents of the Senate and Chamber of Deputies, together with those of the senators and deputies of the various States, followed by those of the President of the Republic and the ministers of his Cabinet.)

BRITISH, GERMAN, AND ITALIAN PROTOCOLS.

BRITISH PROTOCOL.

Whereas certain differences have arisen between the United States of Venezuela and Great Britain in connection with the claims of British subjects against the Venezuelan Government, the undersigned, Mr. Herbert W. Bowen, duly authorized thereto by the Government of Venezuela, and his excellency the Right Hon. Sir Michael H. Herbert, K. C., M. G., C. B., His Britannic Majesty's ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the United States of America, have agreed as follows:

ARTICLE I. The Venezuelan Government declare that they recognize in principle the justice of the claims which have been preferred by His Majesty's Government on behalf of British subjects.

ART. II. The Venezuelan Government will satisfy at once, by payment in cash or its equivalent, the claims of British subjects, which amount to about five thousand five hundred pounds (£5,500) arising out of the seizure and plundering of British vessels and the outrages on their crews and the maltreatment and false imprisonment of British subjects.

ART. III. The Venezuelan and British Governments agree that the other British claims, including claims by British subjects other than those dealt with in Article VI hereof, and including those preferred by the railway companies, shall, unless otherwise satisfied, be referred to a mixed commission constituted in the manner defined in Article IV of this protocol, and which shall examine the claims and decide upon the amount to be awarded in satisfaction of each claim.

The Venezuelan Government admit their liability in cases where the claim is for injury to or wrongful seizure of property, and consequently the questions which the mixed commission will have to decide in such cases will only be (a) whether the injury took place and whether the seizure was wrongful, and (b), if so, what amount of compensation is due.

In other cases the claims shall be referred to the mixed commission without reservation.

ART. IV. The mixed commission shall consist of one Venezuelan member and one British member. In each case where they come to an agreement their decision shall be final. In cases of disagreement the claims shall be referred to the decision of an umpire nominated by the President of the United States of America.

ART. V. The Venezuelan Government, being unwilling to provide a sum sufficient for the payment within a reasonable time of the claims specified in Article III and similar claims preferred by other governments, undertake to assign to the British Government, commencing the 1st day of March, 1903, for this purpose and to alienate to no other purpose, 30 per cent in monthly payments of the customs revenues of La Guaira and Puerto Cabello.

In the case of failure to carry out this undertaking Belgian officials shall be placed in charge of the customs of the two ports and shall administer them until the liabilities of the Venezuelan Government in respect of the above claims shall have been discharged.

Any question as to the distribution of the customs revenues so to be assigned and as to the rights of Great Britain, Germany, and Italy to a separate settlement of their claims shall be determined, in default of arrangement, by the tribunal at The Hague, to which any other power interested may appeal.

Pending the decision of The Hague tribunal, the said 30 per cent of the receipts of the customs of the ports of La Guaira and Puerto Cabello are to be paid over to the representatives of the Bank of England at Caracas.

ART. VI. The Venezuelan Government further undertake to enter into a fresh arrangement respecting the external debt of Venezuela, with a view to the satisfaction of the claims of the bondholders. This arrangement shall include a definition of the sources from which the necessary payments are to be provided.

ART. VII. The Venezuelan and British Governments agree that, inasmuch as it may be contended that the establishment of a blockade of Venezuelan ports by the British naval forces has ipso facto created a state of war between Venezuela and Great Britain, and that any treaty existing between the two countries has been thereby abrogated, it shall be recorded in an exchange of notes between the undersigned that the convention between Venezuela and Great Britain of October 22, 1834, which adopted and confirmed *mutatis mutandis* the treaty of April 18, 1825, between Great Britain and the State of Colombia, shall be deemed to be renewed and confirmed, or provisionally renewed and confirmed, pending conclusion of a new treaty of amity and commerce.

ART. VIII. Immediately upon the signature of this protocol arrangements will be made by His Majesty's Government, in concert with the Governments of Germany and Italy, to raise the blockade of the Venezuelan ports.

His Majesty's Government will be prepared to restore the vessels of the Venezuelan navy which have been seized and, further, to release any other vessels captured under the Venezuelan flag on the receipt of a guarantee from the Venezuelan Government that they will hold His

Majesty's Government indemnified in respect of any proceedings which might be taken against them by the owners of such ships or of goods on board them.

ART. IX. The treaty of amity and commerce of October 29, 1834, having been confirmed in accordance with the terms of Article VII of this protocol, the Government of Venezuela will be happy to renew diplomatic relations with His Majesty's Government.

Done in duplicate at Washington this 13th day of February, 1903.

HERBERT W. BOWEN.

MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

GERMAN PROTOCOL.

Whereas differences have arisen between the United States of Venezuela and Germany through the claims of German subjects against the Government of Venezuela, the undersigned, Mr. Herbert W. Bowen, duly authorized by the Government of Venezuela, and Baron Speck von Sternberg, envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary of His Imperial German Majesty, duly authorized by the Imperial German Government, have agreed as follows:

ARTICLE 1. The Venezuelan Government recognizes in principle the justice of the claims of German subjects presented by the Imperial German Government.

ART. 2. The German claims, which had their origin in the civil wars of Venezuela of 1898 to 1900, amount to B.1,718,815.67. Of this sum the Government of Venezuela undertakes to pay immediately in cash money the sum of £5,500—B.137,500—(five thousand five hundred pounds sterling, or, say, one hundred and thirty-seven thousand five hundred bolivars) and to settle the balance by means of five letters of exchange, payable on the 15th of March, the 15th of April, the 15th of May, the 15th of June, and the 15th of July, 1903, to the Imperial German envoy in Caracas, which shall be drawn immediately by Mr. Bowen and delivered to Baron Sternberg. In case the Government of Venezuela should fail to satisfy these drafts, the payment shall be made of the entries of the customs of La Guaira and Puerto Cabello, whose administration at both ports shall be placed in charge of Belgian functionaries until the complete payment of the said debts.

ART. 3. The German claims which are not mentioned in articles 2 and 6, also all those arising from the civil war now raging in Venezuela, and those of the Great Venezuelan Railroad Company against the Venezuelan Government for passenger and goods freight, and also the claims of Engineer Carl Henckel, of Hamburg, and of the Limited Company of Benton and Monierban, of Berlin, for the construction of the Caracas slaughterhouse shall be submitted to a mixed commission. This commission shall decide the point whether the different

claims are well and solidly founded, and also their amount. In the claims for damages or illegal seizure of property the Government of Venezuela recognizes its responsibility in principle, and consequently the commission will not have to decide the question of responsibility, but only that of whether the damages or seizures were unjust acts, and what compensation should be paid for them.

ART. 4. The mixed commission mentioned in article 3 will meet in Caracas. It shall consist of one member to be named by the Government of Venezuela and another by the Imperial German Government. The appointments must be made by the 1st of May, 1903. In case both members shall agree on the claims presented their decisions shall be definitive. In case of disagreement they shall be submitted to the award of a third party, who shall be appointed by the President of the United States of America.

ART. 5. In order to satisfy the claims specified in article 3, and also those of the same class presented by other nations, the Government of Venezuela shall transmit to the representative of the Bank of England in Caracas, in monthly installments commencing from the 1st of March, 1903, thirty per cent of the customs receipts of La Guaira and Puerto Cabello, which shall not be appropriated to any other purpose. If the Government of Venezuela should fail to comply with this obligation, the administration of the customs at both ports shall be placed in the charge of Belgian functionaries until the above-mentioned claims are completely satisfied.

Whatever questions should arise as to the distribution of the customs receipts specified in the preceding article, and also as to the rights of Germany, Great Britain, and Italy for payment of their claims separately, shall be settled, in the absence of other arrangements, by The Permanent Tribunal of Arbitration of The Hague. All the other nations interested may take part in the arbitration proceedings as litigants against the three mentioned powers.

ART. 6. The Government of Venezuela undertakes to make a new and satisfactory arrangement for the simultaneous payment of the Venezuelan 5 per cent loan of 1896, and of all the foreign debt. In this arrangement shall be mentioned what receipts of the State shall be appropriated to the service of the debt, without prejudice to existing obligations.

ART. 7. The Venezuelan war ships and merchant ships captured by the naval forces of Germany shall be returned to the Government of Venezuela. No claim shall be made for loss and damages arising from the capture and detention of the said ships. Nor shall any indemnity be granted for their injury or destruction.

ART. 8. As soon as this protocol is signed the Imperial German Government, in accord with the Governments of Great Britain and Italy, will raise the blockade of the Venezuelan ports. Diplomatic rela-

tions will also be renewed between the Imperial German Government and that of Venezuela.

Made in duplicate in English and German this 13th day of February, 1903.

HERBERT W. BOWEN. |
H. STERNBERG.

ITALIAN PROTOCOL.

Whereas certain differences have arisen between Italy and the United States of Venezuela owing to Italian claims against the Government of Venezuela, Mr. Herbert W. Bowen, thereto authorized by the Government of Venezuela, and His Excellency the noble Edmund Mayor des Planches, commander of the Orders of Saints Maurice and Lazarus and of the Crown of Italy, ambassador extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary of His Majesty the King of Italy near the United States of America, have agreed as follows:

ARTICLE 1. The Government of Venezuela declares that it recognizes in principle the justice of the claims presented by the Government of His Majesty in the name of Italian subjects.

ART. 2. The Government of Venezuela agrees to pay to the Italian Government in satisfaction of the point of honor the sum of (£5,500) five thousand five hundred pounds, or its equivalent, which sum must be satisfied within sixty days.

ART. 3. The Government of Venezuela recognizes, accepts, and will pay the amount of the Italian claims of the first class, arising out of the revolutions of 1898-1900, amounting to 2,810,255 (two millions eight hundred and ten thousand two hundred and fifty-five) bolivars.

It expressly agrees that the payment of the total amount of the said Italian claims of the first class shall be effected without the said claims or the said sum being submitted to the mixed commission, and without any revision or objection.

ART. 4. The Government of Italy and that of Venezuela agree that all the Italian claims without exception, other than those treated of in article 7 of this protocol, unless satisfied in some other way, shall be submitted to a mixed commission, which shall be constituted as soon as possible, in the manner prescribed by article 6 of the protocol, which shall examine the cases and shall decide on the sum which shall be appointed for payment of each claim.

The Government of Venezuela recognizes its responsibility in the cases in which the claim is founded on injury caused to property by unjust seizure thereof, and consequently the questions on which the Mixed Commission will have to decide shall be only:

- (a) If there was damage, or if the seizure was unjust.
- (b) If this was, what is the amount of compensation due.

In other cases the claims shall be referred to the Mixed Commission unconditionally.

ART. 5. As the Government of Venezuela desires to appropriate a sufficient sum for the payment, within a reasonable time, of the claims specified in articles 3 and 4, and of those of the same kind presented by other governments, it binds itself for this purpose to cede to the Government of Italy, beginning from the 1st of March, 1903, 30 per cent of the customs receipts of La Guaira and Puerto Cabello which shall not have been appropriated to other purposes. In case of non-compliance with this undertaking and obligation the administration of the customs of the said ports shall be placed in charge of Belgian functionaries, who shall administer the same during the continuance of the responsibility of the Government of Venezuela with respect to the said claims. Whatever question shall arise as to the distribution of the customs receipts granted in this manner and as to the rights of Italy, Great Britain, and Germany to a separate adjustment of their claims shall be determined, in the absence of other arrangements, by the Tribunal of The Hague, to which all other interested powers may appeal. While the award of the Tribunal of The Hague is pending, the said 30 per cent of the customs receipts of La Guaira and Puerto Cabello shall be delivered to the representatives of the Bank of England in Caracas.

ART. 6. The Mixed Commission shall consist of an Italian member and a Venezuelan member.

In every case in which they come to an agreement their award shall be final. In case of disagreement their claims shall be submitted to a third member named by the President of the United States of North America.

ART. 7. The Government of Venezuela also undertakes to negotiate a new arrangement with respect to the foreign debt of Venezuela for the purpose of satisfying the claims of the bondholders.

This agreement shall include the specification of the sources from which the necessary payments shall be made.

ART. 8. The treaty of amity, commerce, and navigation of the 19th of June, 1861, between Italy and Venezuela shall be renewed and confirmed. Nevertheless the two Governments especially agree that the interpretation which shall be given to articles 4 and 26 is the following: "According to article 4, Italians in Venezuela and Venezuelans in Italy shall in no case receive a less favorable treatment than that granted to nationals, and according to article 26, Italians in Venezuela and Venezuelans in Italy have the right to enjoy in every matter, and especially in the matter of claims, the treatment of the most favored nation, as is stipulated in the said mentioned article 26."

In case of doubt or conflict between the said articles No. 26 shall be applied.

It is likewise specially agreed that the said treaty shall never be invoked against the provisions of the present protocol.

ART. 9. Immediately after the signature of this protocol His Majesty's Government will take the necessary steps, in accord with the Governments of Germany and Great Britain, to raise the blockade of the ports of Venezuela.

His Majesty's Government is disposed to restore the Venezuelan war ships which have been seized; also to liberate whatever ships bearing the Venezuelan flag have been captured during the blockade.

The Government of Venezuela undertakes by this instrument and guarantees that the Italian Government shall be entirely free and exempt from any claim whatsoever or demand of any kind which may be brought, whether by Venezuelan citizens or corporations, or by citizens or corporations of other countries, owing to the detention, seizure, or destruction of ships or merchandise on board thereof, which may have been or may be detained, captured, or destroyed owing to the blockade established and maintained by the three allied powers against the Republic of Venezuela.

ART. 10. The treaty of friendship, commerce, and navigation of the 19th of June, 1861, having been renewed and confirmed, according to the terms of article 8 of this protocol His Majesty's Government declares that it will be ready to reestablish regular diplomatic relations with the Government of Venezuela.

Washington, D. C., 13th February, 1903.

HERBERT W. BOWEN.

E. MAYOR DES PLANCHES.

VENEZUELAN CONGRESS' ACTION ON PROTOCOLS.

THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES OF VENEZUELA:

Whereas the protocols signed in Washington on February 13, last, by the agent of Venezuela and the representatives of Germany, Great Britain, and Italy were adjusted and signed under a condition of stress created to the Republic in an unforeseen and abnormal manner;

Whereas such documents can not, therefore, be considered and examined in the manner established for diplomatic negotiations, commenced, pursued, and brought to an end in a regular way;

Resolves to lay aside in regard to the aforesaid protocols the constitutional procedure regarding diplomatic treaties and confine its action in regard to them to empower the Federal Executive to put them in practice, with the proviso that none of their clauses shall establish the least precedent in the political existence of the Republic.

Given at the Federal legislative palace of Caracas on the 28th day of March, 1903—92nd year of the independence and 45th of the federation. The president of the Senate: J. A. VELUTINI. The president of the Chamber of Deputies: RAMÓN AYALA. The secretary of the Senate: EZEQUIEL GARCÍA. The secretary of the Chamber of Deputies: M. SILVA MEDINA.

THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES OF VENEZUELA:

Whereas, in the protocol signed with Italy on February 13 last, the interpretation given to the treaty of June 19, 1861, and the amplification or alteration of some of its clauses, renders the continuance of said compact impossible, inasmuch as it is in flagrant contradiction with some of its primary provisions and with principles which by virtue of it were being observed by both parties;

Resolves to ask the Federal Executive to avail itself, within the shortest term possible, of the right provided by art. 28 of said treaty regarding its denouncement.

Given at the Federal Legislative Palace of Caracas on the 28th day of March, 1903—92nd year of the independence and 45th of the federation. The President of the Senate: J. A. VELUTINI. The President of the Chamber of Deputies: RAMÓN AYALA. The Secretary of the Senate: EZEQUIEL GARCÍA. The Secretary of the Chamber of Deputies: M. SILVA MEDINA.

HAGUE PROTOCOLS.

UNITED STATES PROTOCOL.

Protocol of an agreement between the Secretary of State of the United States of America and the plenipotentiary of the Republic of Venezuela for submission to arbitration of all unsettled claims of citizens of the United States of America against the Republic of Venezuela.

The United States of America and the Republic of Venezuela, through their representatives, John Hay, Secretary of State of the United States of America, and Herbert W. Bowen, the plenipotentiary of the Republic of Venezuela, have agreed upon and signed the following protocol:

ARTICLE I. All claims owned by citizens of the United States of America against the Republic of Venezuela which have not been settled by diplomatic agreement or by arbitration between the two Governments, and which shall have been presented to the commission hereinafter named by the Department of State of the United States or its legation at Caracas, shall be examined and decided by a mixed commission, which shall sit at Caracas, and which shall consist of two members, one of whom is to be appointed by the President of the United States and the other by the President of Venezuela.

It is agreed that an umpire may be named by the Queen of the Netherlands. If either of said commissioners or the umpire should fail or cease to act, his successor shall be appointed forthwith in the same manner as his predecessor. Said commissioners and umpire are to be appointed before the first of May, 1903.

The commissioners and the umpire shall meet in the city of Caracas on the first day of June, 1903. The umpire shall preside over their

deliberations, and shall be competent to decide any question on which the commissioners disagree. Before assuming the functions of their office the commissioners and the umpire shall take solemn oath carefully to examine and impartially decide, according to justice and the provisions of this convention, all claims submitted to them, and such oaths shall be entered on the record of their proceedings. The commissioners, or in case of their disagreement, the umpire, shall decide all claims upon a basis of absolute equity, without regard to objections of a technical nature, or of the provisions of local legislation.

The decisions of the commission, and in the event of their disagreement, those of the umpire, shall be final and conclusive. They shall be in writing. All awards shall be made payable in United States gold, or its equivalent in silver.

ART. II. The commissioners, or umpire, as the case may be, shall investigate and decide said claims upon such evidence or information only as shall be furnished by or on behalf of the respective Governments. They shall be bound to receive and consider all written documents or statements which may be presented to them by or on behalf of the respective Governments in support of or in answer to any claim, and to hear oral or written arguments made by the agent of each Government on every claim. In case of their failure to agree in opinion upon any individual claim, the umpire shall decide.

Every claim shall be formally presented to the commissioners within thirty days from the day of their first meeting, unless the commissioners or the umpire in any case extend the period for presenting the claim not exceeding three months longer. The commissioners shall be bound to examine and decide upon every claim within six months from the day of its first formal presentation, and in case of their disagreement, the umpire shall examine and decide within a corresponding period from the date of such disagreement.

ART. III. The commissioners and the umpire shall keep an accurate record of their proceedings. For that purpose each commissioner shall appoint a secretary versed in the language of both countries, to assist them in the transaction of the business of the commission. Except as herein stipulated, all questions of procedure shall be left to the determination of the commission, or in case of their disagreement, to the umpire.

ART. IV. Reasonable compensation to the commissioners and to the umpire for their services and expenses, and the other expenses of said arbitration, are to be paid in equal moieties by the contracting parties.

ART. V. In order to pay the total amount of the claims to be adjudicated as aforesaid, and other claims of citizens or subjects of other nations, the Government of Venezuela shall set apart for this purpose, and alienate to no other purpose, beginning with the month of March, 1903, thirty per cent in monthly payments of the customs revenue of

La Guaira and Puerto Cabello, and the payments thus set aside shall be divided and distributed in conformity with the decision of The Hague tribunal.

In case of the failure to carry out the above agreement Belgian officials shall be placed in charge of the customs of the two ports, and shall administer them until the liabilities of the Venezuelan Government in respect of the above claims shall have been discharged. The reference of the question above stated to The Hague tribunal will be the subject of a separate protocol.

ART. VI. All existing and unsatisfied awards in favor of the United States shall be promptly paid, according to the terms of the respective awards.

JOHN HAY.

HERBERT W. BOWEN.

[NOTE.—The protocols with the other peace powers, viz, France, Spain, Belgium, the Netherlands, Sweden and Norway, and Mexico, were the same, *mutatis mutandis*, as the United States protocol.]

THE HAGUE PROTOCOL—ITALY.

Whereas protocols have been signed between Venezuela on the one hand and Italy, Great Britain, Germany, United States of America, France, Spain, Belgium, the Netherlands, Sweden and Norway, and Mexico on the other hand, containing certain conditions agreed upon for the settlement of claims against the Venezuelan Government;

And whereas certain further questions arising out of the action taken by the Governments of Italy, Germany, and Great Britain in connection with the settlement of their claims have not proved to be susceptible of settlement by ordinary diplomatic methods;

And whereas the powers interested are resolved to determine these questions by reference to arbitration in accordance with the provision of the convention for the pacific settlement of international disputes signed at The Hague on the 29th July, 1899:

The Governments of Venezuela and Italy, with a view to carry out that resolution, authorized their representatives, that is to say:

For Venezuela, Mr. Herbert W. Bowen, duly authorized thereto by the Government of Venezuela;

For Italy, His Excellency Nobile Edmondo Mayor des Planches, His Majesty the King of Italy's ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the United States of America, to conclude the following agreement:

ARTICLE I. The question as to whether or not Italy, Germany, and Great Britain are entitled to preferential or separate treatment in the payment of their claims against Venezuela shall be submitted for final decision to the tribunal at The Hague.

Venezuela having agreed to set aside thirty per cent of the customs

revenues of La Guayra and Puerto Cabello for the payment of the claims of all nations against Venezuela, the tribunal at The Hague shall decide how the said revenues shall be divided between the blockading powers on the one hand and the other creditor powers on the other hand, and its decision shall be final.

If preferential or separate treatment is not given to the blockading powers, the tribunal shall decide how the said revenues shall be distributed among all the creditor powers, and the parties hereto agree that the tribunal, in that case, shall consider, in connection with the payment of the claims out of 30%, any preference or pledges of revenues enjoyed by any of the creditor powers, and shall accordingly decide the question of distribution so that no power shall obtain preferential treatment, and its decision shall be final.

ART. II. The facts on which shall depend the decision of the questions stated in Article I shall be ascertained in such manner as the tribunal may determine.

ART. III. The Emperor of Russia shall be invited to name and appoint from the members of the permanent court of The Hague three arbitrators to constitute the tribunal which is to determine and settle the questions submitted to it under and by virtue of this agreement.

None of the arbitrators so appointed shall be a citizen or a subject of any of the signatory or creditor powers.

This tribunal shall meet on the first day of September, 1903, and shall render its decision within six months thereafter.

ART. IV. The proceedings shall be carried on in the English language, but arguments may, with the permission of the tribunal, be made in any other language also.

Except as herein otherwise stipulated, the procedure shall be regulated by the convention of The Hague of July 29th, 1899.

ART. V. The tribunal shall, subject to the general provision laid down in article 57 of the international convention of July 29th, 1899, also decide how, when, and by whom the costs of this arbitration shall be paid.

ART. VI. Any nation having claims against Venezuela may join as a party in the arbitration provided for by this agreement.

WASHINGTON, D. C., *May 7, 1903.*

HERBERT W. BOWEN.

E. MAYOR DES PLANCHES.

THE HAGUE PROTOCOL—GREAT BRITAIN.

Whereas protocols have been signed between Venezuela on the one hand and Great Britain, Germany, Italy, United States of America, France, Spain, Belgium, the Netherlands, Sweden and Norway, and Mexico on the other hand, containing certain conditions agreed upon for the settlement of claims against the Venezuelan Government;

And whereas certain further questions arising out of the action taken by the Governments of Great Britain, Germany, and Italy, in connection with the settlement of their claims, have not proved to be susceptible of settlement by ordinary diplomatic methods;

And whereas the powers interested are resolved to determine these questions by reference to arbitration in accordance with the provisions of the convention for the pacific settlement of international disputes, signed at The Hague on the 29th July, 1899:

The Governments of Venezuela and Great Britain have, with a view to carry out that resolution, authorized their representatives, that is to say:

For Venezuela, Mr. Herbert W. Bowen, duly authorized thereto by the Government of Venezuela, and for Great Britain, His Excellency Sir Michael Henry Herbert, G. C. M. G., C. B., His Britannic Majesty's ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the United States of America, to conclude the following agreement:

ARTICLE I. The question as to whether or not Great Britain, Germany, and Italy are entitled to preferential or separate treatment in the payment of their claims against Venezuela shall be submitted for final decision to the tribunal at The Hague.

Venezuela having agreed to set aside thirty per cent of the customs revenues of La Guaira and Puerto Cabello for the payment of the claims of all nations against Venezuela, the tribunal at The Hague shall decide how the said revenues shall be divided between the blockading powers on the one hand and the other creditor powers on the other hand, and its decision shall be final.

If preferential or separate treatment is not given to the blockading powers, the tribunal shall decide how the said revenues shall be distributed among all the creditor powers, and the parties hereto agree that the tribunal in that case shall consider, in connection with the payment of the claims out of the 30 per cent, any preference or pledges of revenue enjoyed by any of the creditor powers, and shall accordingly decide the question of distribution so that no power shall obtain preferential treatment, and its decision shall be final.

ART. II. The facts on which shall depend the decision of the questions stated in Article I shall be ascertained in such manner as the tribunal may determine.

ART. III. The Emperor of Russia shall be invited to name and appoint from the members of the permanent court of The Hague three arbitrators to constitute the tribunal which is to determine and settle the questions submitted to it under and by virtue of this agreement. None of the arbitrators so appointed shall be a citizen or subject of any of the signatory or creditor powers.

This tribunal shall meet on the first day of September, 1903, and shall render its decision within six months thereafter.

ART. IV. The proceedings shall be carried on in the English language,

but arguments may, with the permission of the tribunal, be made in any other language also.

Except as herein otherwise stipulated, the procedure shall be regulated by the convention of The Hague of July 29, 1899.

ART. V. The tribunal shall, subject to the general provision laid down in article 57 of the international convention of July 29, 1899, also decide how, when, and by whom the costs of this arbitration shall be paid.

ART. VI. Any nation having claims against Venezuela may join as a party in the arbitration provided for by this agreement.

Done at Washington this seventh day of May, 1903.

HERBERT W. BOWEN,
MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

THE HAGUE PROTOCOL—GERMANY.

Whereas protocols have been signed between Germany, Great Britain, Italy, the United States of America, France, Spain, Belgium, The Netherlands, Sweden and Norway, and Mexico, on the one hand, and Venezuela on the other hand, containing certain conditions agreed upon for the settlement of claims against the Venezuelan Government;

And whereas certain further questions arising out of the action taken by the Governments of Germany, Great Britain, and Italy, in connection with the settlement of their claims, have not proved to be susceptible of settlement by ordinary diplomatic methods;

And whereas the powers interested are resolved to determine these questions by reference to arbitration in accordance with the provisions of the convention for the pacific settlement of international disputes, signed at The Hague on the 29th July, 1899;

Venezuela and Germany have, with a view to carry out that resolution, authorized their representatives, that is to say:

Mr. Herbert W. Bowen, as plenipotentiary of the Government of Venezuela, and

The Imperial German minister, Baron Speck von Sternberg, as representative of the Imperial German Government, to conclude the following agreement:

ARTICLE I. The question as to whether or not Germany, Great Britain, and Italy are entitled to preferential or separate treatment in the payment of their claims against Venezuela shall be submitted for final decision to the tribunal at The Hague.

Venezuela having agreed to set aside 30 per cent of the customs revenues of La Guayra and Puerto Cabello for the payment of the claims of all nations against Venezuela, the tribunal at The Hague shall decide how the said revenues shall be divided between the blockading powers on the one hand and the other creditor powers on the other hand, and its decision shall be final.

If preferential or separate treatment is not given to the blockading

powers, the tribunal shall decide how the said revenues shall be distributed among all the creditor powers, and the parties hereto agree that the tribunal in that case shall consider, in connection with the payment of the claims out of the 30 per cent, any preference or pledges of revenue enjoyed by any of the creditor powers, and shall accordingly decide the question of distribution so that no power shall obtain preferential treatment, and its decision shall be final.

ART. II. The facts on which shall depend the decision of the questions stated in Article I shall be ascertained in such manner as the tribunal may determine.

ART. III. The Emperor of Russia shall be invited to name and appoint from the members of the permanent court of The Hague three arbitrators to constitute the tribunal which is to determine and settle the questions submitted to it under and by virtue of this agreement. None of the arbitrators so appointed shall be a subject or citizen of any of the signatory or creditor powers.

This tribunal shall meet on the first day of September, 1903, and shall render its decision within six months thereafter.

ART. IV. The proceedings shall be carried on in the English language, but arguments may, with the permission of the tribunal, be made in any other language also. Except as herein otherwise stipulated, the procedure shall be regulated by the convention of The Hague of July 29th, 1899.

ART. V. The tribunal shall, subject to the general provision laid down in article 57 of the international convention of July 29, 1899, also decide how, when, and by whom the cost of this arbitration shall be paid.

ART. VI. Any nation having claims against Venezuela may join as a party in the arbitration provided for by this agreement.

Done in duplicate at Washington this seventh day of May, one thousand nine hundred and three.

HERBERT W. BOWEN.
STERNBERG.

PERMANENT TRIBUNAL OF ARBITRATION OF THE HAGUE.

AWARD OF THE TRIBUNAL OF ARBITRATION CONSTITUTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROTOCOLS SIGNED AT WASHINGTON ON MAY 7, 1903, BETWEEN GERMANY, GREAT BRITAIN, AND ITALY ON THE ONE HAND AND VENEZUELA ON THE OTHER HAND.

The tribunal of arbitration constituted in virtue of the protocols signed at Washington on May 7, 1903, between Germany, Great Britain, and Italy on the one hand and Venezuela on the other hand:

Whereas other protocols were signed to the same effect by Belgium, France, Mexico, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden and Norway, and the United States of America on the one hand and Venezuela on the other hand;

Whereas all these protocols declare the agreement of all the contracting parties with reference to the settlement of the claims against the Venezuelan Government;

Whereas certain further questions arising out of the actions of the Governments of Germany, Great Britain, and Italy concerning the settlement of their claims were not susceptible of solution by the ordinary diplomatic methods;

Whereas the powers interested decided to solve these questions by submitting them to arbitration, in conformity with the dispositions of the convention signed at The Hague on July 29, 1899, for the pacific settlement of international disputes;

Whereas in virtue of Article III of the protocols of Washington of May 7, 1903, His Majesty the Emperor of Russia was requested by all the interested powers to name and appoint from among the members of the Permanent Court of Arbitration of The Hague three arbitrators, who shall form the tribunal of arbitration charged with the solution and settlement of the questions which shall be submitted to it in virtue of the above-named protocols;

Whereas none of the arbitrators thus named could be a citizen or subject of any of the signatory or creditor powers, and whereas the tribunal was to meet at The Hague on September 1, 1903, and render its award within a term of six months;

His Majesty the Emperor of Russia, conforming to the request of all the signatory powers of the above-named protocols of Washington of May 7, 1903, graciously named as arbitrators the following members of the Permanent Court of Arbitration:

His Excellency Mr. N. V. Mouravieff, secretary of state of His Majesty the Emperor of Russia, actual privy councillor, minister of justice, and procurator-general of the Russian Empire;

Mr. H. Lammasch, professor of criminal and of international law at the University of Vienna, member of the Upper House of the Austrian Parliament; and

His Excellency Mr. F. de Martens, doctor of law, privy councillor, permanent member of the council of the Russian ministry of foreign Affairs, member of the "Institut de France;"

Whereas by unforeseen circumstances the tribunal of arbitration could not be definitely constituted till October 1, 1903, the arbitrators, at their first meeting on that day, proceeding, in conformity with Article XXXIV of the convention of July 29, 1899, to the nomination of the president of the tribunal, elected as such His Excellency Mr. Mouravieff, minister of justice;

And whereas, in virtue of the protocols of Washington of May 7, 1903, the above-named arbitrators, forming the legally constituted tribunal of arbitration, had to decide, in conformity with Article I of the protocols of Washington of May 7, 1903, the following points:

"The question as to whether or not Germany, Great Britain, and Italy are entitled to preferential or separate treatment in the payment of their claims against Venezuela; and its decision shall be final.

"Venezuela having agreed to set aside 30 per cent of the customs revenues of La Guayra and Puerto Cabello for the payment of the claims of all nations against Venezuela, the tribunal at The Hague shall decide how the said revenues shall be divided between the blockading powers on the one hand and the other creditor powers on the other hand; and its decisions shall be final.

"If preferential or separate treatment is not given to the blockading powers, the tribunal shall decide how the said revenues are to be distributed among all the creditor powers, and the parties hereto agree that the tribunal, in that case, shall consider, in connection with the payment of the claims out of the 30 per cent, any preference or pledges of revenues enjoyed by any of the creditor powers, and shall accordingly decide the question of distribution so that no power shall obtain preferential treatment; and its decision shall be final."

Whereas the above-named arbitrators, having examined with impartiality and care all the documents and acts presented to the tribunal of arbitration by the agents of the powers interested in this litigation, and having listened with the greatest attention to the oral pleadings delivered before the tribunal by the agents and counsel of the parties to the litigation;

Whereas the tribunal, in its examination of the present litigation, had to be guided by the principles of international law and the maxims of justice;

Whereas the various protocols signed at Washington since February 13, 1903, and particularly the protocols of May 7, 1903, the obligatory force of which is beyond all doubt, form the legal basis of the arbitral award;

Whereas the tribunal has no competence at all, either to contest the jurisdiction of the mixed commissions of arbitration established at Caracas nor to judge their action;

Whereas the tribunal considers itself absolutely incompetent to give a decision as to the character or the nature of the military operations undertaken by Germany, Great Britain, and Italy against Venezuela;

Whereas also the tribunal of arbitration was not called upon to decide whether the three blockading powers had exhausted all pacific methods in their dispute with Venezuela in order to prevent the employment of force;

And it can only state the fact that since 1901 the Government of Venezuela categorically refused to submit its dispute with Germany and Great Britain to arbitration which was proposed several times and especially by the note of the German Government of July 16, 1902;

Whereas after the war between Germany, Great Britain, and Italy

on the one hand and Venezuela on the other hand no formal treaty of peace was concluded between the belligerent powers;

Whereas the protocols signed at Washington on February 13, 1903, had not settled all the questions in dispute between the belligerent parties, leaving open in particular the question of the distribution of the receipts of the customs of La Guayra and Puerto Cabello;

Whereas the belligerent powers in submitting the question of preferential treatment in the matter of these receipts to the judgment of the tribunal of arbitration agreed that the arbitral award should serve to fill up this void and to ensure the definite reestablishment of peace between them;

Whereas, on the other hand, the warlike operations of the three great European powers against Venezuela ceased before they had received satisfaction on all their claims, and, on the other hand, the question of preferential treatment was submitted to arbitration, the tribunal must recognize in these facts precious evidence in favour of the great principle of arbitration in all phases of international disputes;

Whereas the blockading powers in admitting the adhesion to the stipulations of the protocols of February 13, 1903, of the other powers which had claims against Venezuela could evidently not have the intention of renouncing either their acquired rights or their actual privileged position;

Whereas the Government of Venezuela in the protocols of February 13, 1903 (Article I), itself recognises "in principle the justice of the claims" presented to it by the Governments of Germany, Great Britain, and Italy;

While in the protocol signed between Venezuela and the so-called neutral or pacific powers the justice of the claims of these latter was not recognized in principle;

Whereas the Government of Venezuela until the end of January, 1903, in no way protested against the pretension of the blockading powers to insist on special securities for the settlement of their claims;

Whereas Venezuela itself during the diplomatic negotiations always made a formal distinction between "the allied powers" and "the neutral or pacific powers;"

Whereas the neutral powers, who claim before the tribunal of arbitration equality in the distribution of the 30 per cent of the customs receipts of La Guayra and Puerto Cabello, did not protest against the pretensions of the blockading powers to a preferential treatment either at the moment of the cessation of the war against Venezuela or immediately after the signature of the protocols of February 13, 1903;

Whereas it appears from the negotiations which resulted in the signature of the protocols of February 13 and May 7, 1903, that the German and British Governments constantly insisted on their being given guarantees for "a sufficient and punctual discharge of the obli-

gations" (British memorandum of December 23, 1902, communicated to the Government of the United States of America);

Whereas the plenipotentiary of the Government of Venezuela accepted this reservation on the part of the allied powers without the least protest;

Whereas the Government of Venezuela engaged, with respect to the allied powers alone, to offer special guarantees for the accomplishment of its engagements;

Whereas the good faith which ought to govern international relations imposes the duty of stating that the words "all claims" used by the representative of the Government of Venezuela in his conferences with the representatives of the allied powers (statement left in the hands of Sir Michael Herbert by Mr. H. Bowen of January 23, 1900) could only mean the claims of these latter and could only refer to them;

Whereas the neutral powers, having taken no part in the warlike operations against Venezuela, could in some respects profit by the circumstances created by those operations, but without acquiring any new rights;

Whereas the rights acquired by the neutral or pacific powers with regard to Venezuela remain in the future absolutely intact and guaranteed by respective international arrangements;

Whereas in virtue of Article V of the protocols of May 7, 1903, signed at Washington, the tribunal "shall also decide, subject to the general provisions laid down in Article LVII of the international convention of July 29, 1899, how, when, and by whom the costs of this arbitration shall be paid:"

For these reasons the tribunal of arbitration decides and pronounces unanimously that:—

1. Germany, Great Britain, and Italy have a right to preferential treatment of their claims against Venezuela;

2. Venezuela having consented to put aside 30 per cent of the revenues of the customs of La Guayra and Puerto Cabello for the payment of the claims of all nations against Venezuela, the three above-named powers have a right to preference in the payment of their claims by means of this 30 per cent of the receipts of the two Venezuelan ports above mentioned;

3. Each party to the litigation shall bear its own costs and an equal share of the costs of the tribunal.

The Government of the United States of America is charged with seeing to the execution of this latter clause within a term of three months.

Done at The Hague, in the permanent court of arbitration, February 22, 1904.

N. MOURAVIEFF.
H. LAMMASCH.
MARTENS.

PUBLIC TREATIES AND CONVENTIONS IN FORCE.

The following list, supplied by the department of foreign affairs of Venezuela, contains the public treaties and conventions in force between Venezuela and foreign countries, namely:

Treaty with *Great Britain*, friendship, commerce, and navigation, April 18, 1825 (Collection of Public Treaties, 1884, p. 25).

Treaty with *Great Britain*, abolition of slave traffic, March 15, 1839 (Col. of T., p. 53).

Treaty with *New Granada*, friendship, commerce, and navigation (articles on political relations are the only ones in force), July 23, 1842 (C. of T., p. 57).

Treaty with *Spain*, peace and acknowledgment, May 27, 1845 (C. of T., p. 74).

Treaty with *Brazil*, boundaries and river navigation, July 9, 1860 (C. of T., p. 95).

Treaty with *Italy*, friendship, commerce, and navigation, November 24, 1862 (C. of T., p. 106).

Convention with *Denmark*, trade and commerce marks, June 21, 1879 (C. of T., p. 134).

Treaty with *Spain*, commerce and navigation, May 20, 1882 (C. of T., p. 135).

Convention with *Belgium*, juridic status of stock companies, May 25, 1882 (C. of T., p. 138).

Convention with *Belgium*, trade-marks, May 25, 1882 (C. of T., p. 139).

Convention with *Germany*, trade-marks, July 11, 1882 (C. of T., p. 140).

Treaty with *El Salvador*, friendship, commerce, and navigation, December 24, 1884 (Comp. of Laws and Decrees, Vol. XI, Law No. 2707).

Convention with *El Salvador*, consular, December 26, 1884 (C. of L. and D., Vol. XI, Law No. 2708).

Treaty with *Belgium*, extradition, March 5, 1885 (C. of L. and D., Vol. XII, No. 2838).

Treaty with *Belgium*, friendship, commerce, and navigation (Yellow Book of Venezuela, 1886, p. 269).

Treaty with *Bolivia*, extradition, January 12, 1888 (C. of L. and D., Vol. XIV, L. No. 4028).

Convention with *Bolivia*, consular, January 12, 1888 (C. of L. and D., Vol. XIV, L. No. 4029).

Convention with *France*, renewal of friendly intercourse, January 5, 1886 (C. of L. and D., Vol. XII, L. No. 3333).

Treaty with *Spain*, extradition, May 7, 1895 (C. of L. and D., Vol. XVII, L. No. 6240).

Convention with *France*, commercial, February 19, 1902 (Report of Foreign Relation Department, 1904, p. 64 of Documents).

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